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(54) Title: IMMUNOGENIC COMPOSITIONS CONTAINING RECOMBINANT ATTENUATED POXVIRUSES EXPRESSING HTLV ANTIGENS			
(57) Abstract <p>Attenuated recombinant viruses containing DNA encoding an HTLV antigen such as HTLV_{env} or HTLV₁₁₇₁, as well as methods and compositions employing the viruses, expression products therefrom, and antibodies generated from the viruses or expression products, are disclosed and claimed. The recombinant viruses can be NYVAC or ALVAC recombinant viruses. The recombinant viruses and gene products therefrom and antibodies generated by the viruses and gene products have several preventive, therapeutic and diagnostic uses.</p>			

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Immunogenic compositions containing recombinant attenuated poxviruses expressing HTLV antigens.

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RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 08/105,483, filed August 12, 1993, which in turn is a continuation of application Serial No. 07/847,951, filed March 6, 1992, which in turn is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 07/713,967, filed June 11, 1991, which in turn is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 07/666,056, filed March 7, 1991, now allowed application Serial No. 08/036,217, filed March 24, 1993, and issued November 15, 1994 as U.S. Patent No. 5,364,773. Reference is made to application Serial No. 08/223,842, filed April 6, 1994, as a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 07/897,382, filed June 11, 1992, which in turn is a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 07/715,921, filed June 14, 1991. Mention is also made of co-pending application Serial No. 08/184,009, filed January 19, 1994 as a continuation-in-part of application Serial No. 08/007,115, filed January 20, 1993. Each of the aforementioned and above-referenced applications and patent are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a modified poxvirus and to methods of making and using the same; for instance, a vaccinia virus or avipox (e.g. canarypox or fowlpox), e.g., ("HTLV") modified recombinant poxvirus-human T-cell leukemia virus, such as an attenuated recombinant, especially a NYVAC or ALVAC HTLV recombinant. More in particular, the invention relates to improved vectors for the insertion and expression of foreign genes for use as safe immunization vehicles to elicit an immune response against HTLV virus. Thus, the

invention relates to a recombinant poxvirus, which virus expresses gene products of HTLV and to immunogenic compositions which induce an immunological response against HTLV infections when administered to a host, or
5 in vitro (e.g., ex vivo modalities) as well as to the products of expression of the poxvirus which by themselves are useful for eliciting an immune response e.g., raising antibodies, which antibodies are useful against HTLV infection, in either seropositive or
10 seronegative individuals, or which expression products or antibodies elicited thereby, isolated from an animal or human or cell culture as the case may be, are useful for preparing a diagnostic kit, test or assay for the detection of the virus, or of infected cells, or, of the
15 expression of the antigens or products in other systems. The isolated expression products are especially useful in kits, tests or assays for detection of antibodies in a system, host, serum or sample, or for generation of antibodies.

20 Several publications are referenced in this application. Full citation to these references is found at the end of the specification immediately preceding the claims or where the publication is mentioned; and each of these publications is hereby incorporated herein by
25 reference.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Vaccinia virus and more recently other poxviruses have been used for the insertion and expression of foreign genes. The basic technique of inserting foreign
30 genes into live infectious poxvirus involves recombination between pox DNA sequences flanking a foreign genetic element in a donor plasmid and homologous sequences present in the rescuing poxvirus (Piccini et al., 1987).

35 Specifically, the recombinant poxviruses are constructed in two steps known in the art and analogous to the methods for creating synthetic recombinants of

poxviruses such as the vaccinia virus and avipox virus described in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,769,330, 4,772,848, 4,603,112, 5,100,587, and 5,179,993, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

5 First, the DNA gene sequence to be inserted into the virus, particularly an open reading frame from a non-pox source, is placed into an *E. coli* plasmid construct into which DNA homologous to a section of DNA of the poxvirus has been inserted. Separately, the DNA gene sequence to
10 be inserted is ligated to a promoter. The promoter-gene linkage is positioned in the plasmid construct so that the promoter-gene linkage is flanked on both ends by DNA homologous to a DNA sequence flanking a region of pox DNA containing a nonessential locus. The resulting plasmid
15 construct is then amplified by growth within *E. coli* bacteria (Clewell, 1972) and isolated (Clewell et al., 1969; Maniatis et al., 1982).

Second, the isolated plasmid containing the DNA gene sequence to be inserted is transfected into a cell culture, e.g. chick embryo fibroblasts, along with the poxvirus. Recombination between homologous pox DNA in the plasmid and the viral genome respectively gives a poxvirus modified by the presence, in a nonessential region of its genome, of foreign DNA sequences. The term
25 "foreign" DNA designates exogenous DNA, particularly DNA from a non-pox source, that codes for gene products not ordinarily produced by the genome into which the exogenous DNA is placed.

Genetic recombination is in general the exchange of
30 homologous sections of DNA between two strands of DNA. In certain viruses RNA may replace DNA. Homologous sections of nucleic acid are sections of nucleic acid (DNA or RNA) which have the same sequence of nucleotide bases.

35 Genetic recombination may take place naturally during the replication or manufacture of new viral genomes within the infected host cell. Thus, genetic

recombination between viral genes may occur during the viral replication cycle that takes place in a host cell which is co-infected with two or more different viruses or other genetic constructs. A section of DNA from a 5 first genome is used interchangeably in constructing the section of the genome of a second co-infecting virus in which the DNA is homologous with that of the first viral genome.

However, recombination can also take place between 10 sections of DNA in different genomes that are not perfectly homologous. If one such section is from a first genome homologous with a section of another genome except for the presence within the first section of, for example, a genetic marker or a gene coding for an 15 antigenic determinant inserted into a portion of the homologous DNA, recombination can still take place and the products of that recombination are then detectable by the presence of that genetic marker or gene in the recombinant viral genome. Additional strategies have 20 recently been reported for generating recombinant vaccinia virus.

Successful expression of the inserted DNA genetic sequence by the modified infectious virus requires two conditions. First, the insertion must be into a 25 nonessential region of the virus in order that the modified virus remain viable. The second condition for expression of inserted DNA is the presence of a promoter in the proper relationship to the inserted DNA. The promoter must be placed so that it is located upstream 30 from the DNA sequence to be expressed.

Vaccinia virus has been used successfully to immunize against smallpox, culminating in the worldwide eradication of smallpox in 1980. In the course of its history, many strains of vaccinia have arisen. These 35 different strains demonstrate varying immunogenicity and are implicated to varying degrees with potential complications, the most serious of which are post-

vaccinia encephalitis and generalized vaccinia
(Behbehani, 1983).

With the eradication of smallpox, a new role for
vaccinia became important, that of a genetically
5 engineered vector for the expression of foreign genes.
Genes encoding a vast number of heterologous antigens
have been expressed in vaccinia, often resulting in
protective immunity against challenge by the
corresponding pathogen (reviewed in Tartaglia et al.,
10 1990a).

The genetic background of the vaccinia vector has
been shown to affect the protective efficacy of the
expressed foreign immunogen. For example, expression of
Epstein Barr Virus (EBV) gp340 in the Wyeth vaccine
15 strain of vaccinia virus did not protect cottontop
tamarins against EBV virus induced lymphoma, while
expression of the same gene in the WR laboratory strain
of vaccinia virus was protective (Morgan et al., 1988).

A fine balance between the efficacy and the safety
20 of a vaccinia virus-based recombinant vaccine candidate
is extremely important. The recombinant virus must
present the immunogen(s) in a manner that elicits a
protective immune response in the vaccinated animal but
lacks any significant pathogenic properties. Therefore
25 attenuation of the vector strain would be a highly
desirable advance over the current state of technology.

A number of vaccinia genes have been identified
which are non-essential for growth of the virus in tissue
culture and whose deletion or inactivation reduces
30 virulence in a variety of animal systems.

The gene encoding the vaccinia virus thymidine
kinase (TK) has been mapped (Hruby et al., 1982) and
sequenced (Hruby et al., 1983; Weir et al., 1983).
Inactivation or complete deletion of the thymidine kinase
35 gene does not prevent growth of vaccinia virus in a wide
variety of cells in tissue culture. TK⁻ vaccinia virus

is also capable of replication *in vivo* at the site of inoculation in a variety of hosts by a variety of routes.

It has been shown for herpes simplex virus type 2 that intravaginal inoculation of guinea pigs with TK⁻ virus resulted in significantly lower virus titers in the spinal cord than did inoculation with TK⁺ virus (Stanberry et al., 1985). It has been demonstrated that herpesvirus encoded TK activity *in vitro* was not important for virus growth in actively metabolizing cells, but was required for virus growth in quiescent cells (Jamieson et al., 1974).

Attenuation of TK⁻ vaccinia has been shown in mice inoculated by the intracerebral and intraperitoneal routes (Buller et al., 1985). Attenuation was observed both for the WR neurovirulent laboratory strain and for the Wyeth vaccine strain. In mice inoculated by the intradermal route, TK⁻ recombinant vaccinia generated equivalent anti-vaccinia neutralizing antibodies as compared with the parental TK⁺ vaccinia virus, indicating that in this test system the loss of TK function does not significantly decrease immunogenicity of the vaccinia virus vector. Following intranasal inoculation of mice with TK⁻ and TK⁺ recombinant vaccinia virus (WR strain), significantly less dissemination of virus to other locations, including the brain, has been found (Taylor et al., 1991a).

Another enzyme involved with nucleotide metabolism is ribonucleotide reductase. Loss of virally encoded ribonucleotide reductase activity in herpes simplex virus (HSV) by deletion of the gene encoding the large subunit was shown to have no effect on viral growth and DNA synthesis in dividing cells *in vitro*, but severely compromised the ability of the virus to grow on serum starved cells (Goldstein et al., 1988). Using a mouse model for acute HSV infection of the eye and reactivatable latent infection in the trigeminal ganglia, reduced virulence was demonstrated for HSV deleted of the

large subunit of ribonucleotide reductase, compared to the virulence exhibited by wild type HSV (Jacobson et al., 1989).

Both the small (Slabaugh et al., 1988) and large 5 (Schmidtt et al., 1988) subunits of ribonucleotide reductase have been identified in vaccinia virus. Insertional inactivation of the large subunit of 10 ribonucleotide reductase in the WR strain of vaccinia virus leads to attenuation of the virus as measured by intracranial inoculation of mice (Child et al., 1990).

The vaccinia virus hemagglutinin gene (HA) has been mapped and sequenced (Shida, 1986). The HA gene of 15 vaccinia virus is nonessential for growth in tissue culture (Ichihashi et al., 1971). Inactivation of the HA gene of vaccinia virus results in reduced neurovirulence in rabbits inoculated by the intracranial route and smaller lesions in rabbits at the site of intradermal inoculation (Shida et al., 1988). The HA locus was used for the insertion of foreign genes in the WR strain 20 (Shida et al., 1987), derivatives of the Lister strain (Shida et al., 1988) and the Copenhagen strain (Guo et al., 1989) of vaccinia virus. Recombinant HA⁻ vaccinia 25 virus expressing foreign genes have been shown to be immunogenic (Guo et al., 1989; Itamura et al., 1990; Shida et al., 1988; Shida et al., 1987) and protective against challenge by the relevant pathogen (Guo et al., 1989; Shida et al., 1987).

Cowpox virus (Brighton red strain) produces red (hemorrhagic) pocks on the chorioallantoic membrane of 30 chicken eggs. Spontaneous deletions within the cowpox genome generate mutants which produce white pocks (Pickup et al., 1984). The hemorrhagic function (u) maps to a 38 kDa protein encoded by an early gene (Pickup et al., 1986). This gene, which has homology to serine protease 35 inhibitors, has been shown to inhibit the host inflammatory response to cowpox virus (Palumbo et al., 1989) and is an inhibitor of blood coagulation.

The u gene is present in WR strain of vaccinia virus (Kotwal et al., 1989b). Mice inoculated with a WR vaccinia virus recombinant in which the u region has been inactivated by insertion of a foreign gene produce higher 5 antibody levels to the foreign gene product compared to mice inoculated with a similar recombinant vaccinia virus in which the u gene is intact (Zhou et al., 1990). The u region is present in a defective nonfunctional form in Copenhagen strain of vaccinia virus (open reading frames 10 B13 and B14 by the terminology reported in Goebel et al., 1990a,b).

Cowpox virus is localized in infected cells in cytoplasmic A type inclusion bodies (ATI) (Kato et al., 1959). The function of ATI is thought to be the 15 protection of cowpox virus virions during dissemination from animal to animal (Bergoin et al., 1971). The ATI region of the cowpox genome encodes a 160 kDa protein which forms the matrix of the ATI bodies (Funahashi et al., 1988; Patel et al., 1987). Vaccinia virus, though 20 containing a homologous region in its genome, generally does not produce ATI. In WR strain of vaccinia, the ATI region of the genome is translated as a 94 kDa protein (Patel et al., 1988). In Copenhagen strain of vaccinia virus, most of the DNA sequences corresponding to the ATI 25 region are deleted, with the remaining 3' end of the region fused with sequences upstream from the ATI region to form open reading frame (ORF) A26L (Goebel et al., 1990a,b).

A variety of spontaneous (Altenburger et al., 1989; 30 Drillien et al., 1981; Lai et al., 1989; Moss et al., 1981; Paez et al., 1985; Panicali et al., 1981) and engineered (Perkus et al., 1991; Perkus et al., 1989; Perkus et al., 1986) deletions have been reported near the left end of the vaccinia virus genome. A WR strain 35 of vaccinia virus with a 10 kb spontaneous deletion (Moss et al., 1981; Panicali et al., 1981) was shown to be attenuated by intracranial inoculation in mice (Buller et

al., 1985). This deletion was later shown to include 17 potential ORFs (Kotwal et al., 1988b). Specific genes within the deleted region include the virokine N1L and a 35 kDa protein (C3L, by the terminology reported in 5 Goebel et al., 1990a,b). Insertional inactivation of N1L reduces virulence by intracranial inoculation for both normal and nude mice (Kotwal et al., 1989a). The 35 kDa protein is secreted like N1L into the medium of vaccinia virus infected cells. The protein contains homology to 10 the family of complement control proteins, particularly the complement 4B binding protein (C4bp) (Kotwal et al., 1988a). Like the cellular C4bp, the vaccinia 35 kDa protein binds the fourth component of complement and inhibits the classical complement cascade (Kotwal et al., 15 1990). Thus the vaccinia 35 kDa protein appears to be involved in aiding the virus in evading host defense mechanisms.

The left end of the vaccinia genome includes two genes which have been identified as host range genes, K1L 20 (Gillard et al., 1986) and C7L (Perkus et al., 1990). Deletion of both of these genes reduces the ability of vaccinia virus to grow on a variety of human cell lines (Perkus et al., 1990).

Two additional vaccine vector systems involve the 25 use of naturally host-restricted poxviruses, avipox viruses. Both fowlpoxvirus (FPV) and canarypoxvirus (CPV) have been engineered to express foreign gene products. Fowlpox virus (FPV) is the prototypic virus of the Avipox genus of the Poxvirus family. The virus 30 causes an economically important disease of poultry which has been well controlled since the 1920's by the use of live attenuated vaccines. Replication of the avipox viruses is limited to avian species (Matthews, 1982) and there are no reports in the literature of avipoxvirus 35 causing a productive infection in any non-avian species including man. This host restriction provides an inherent safety barrier to transmission of the virus to

other species and makes use of avipoxvirus based vaccine vectors in veterinary and human applications an attractive proposition.

FPV has been used advantageously as a vector
5 expressing antigens from poultry pathogens. The hemagglutinin protein of a virulent avian influenza virus was expressed in an FPV recombinant (Taylor et al., 1988a). After inoculation of the recombinant into chickens and turkeys, an immune response was induced
10 which was protective against either a homologous or a heterologous virulent influenza virus challenge (Taylor et al., 1988a). FPV recombinants expressing the surface glycoproteins of Newcastle Disease Virus have also been developed (Taylor et al., 1990; Edbauer et al., 1990).

15 Despite the host-restriction for replication of FPV and CPV to avian systems, recombinants derived from these viruses were found to express extrinsic proteins in cells of nonavian origin. Further, such recombinant viruses were shown to elicit immunological responses directed
20 towards the foreign gene product and where appropriate were shown to afford protection from challenge against the corresponding pathogen (Tartaglia et al., 1993a,b; Taylor et al., 1992; 1991b; 1988b).

Human T-cell leukemia/lymphoma virus type I (HTLV-I)
25 and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), retroviruses which causes adult T-cell leukemia (ATL) and tropical spastic paraparesis/HTLV-I-associated myelopathy (TSP/HAM), and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (Gallo, 1987; Poiesz, 1980; Hinuma, 1981; Barre-Siniussi, 1983;
30 Popovic, 1984; Gallo, 1986), respectively, are transmitted by close contact (e.g., sexual intercourse, mother-to-child) and transfusion of blood or blood products. However, in contrast to HIV-1, evidence exists that HTLV-I is not transmitted efficiently by
35 contaminated cryopreserved fraction VIII preparations, suggesting that HTLV-I transmission occurs mostly via infected cells rather than from cell-free virus. This is

also supported by earlier results showing that *in vitro* transmission of cell-free HTLV-I is far less efficient than by coculturing infected cells with target cells (De Rossi, 1985) and, by the relatively small variation in 5 HTLV-I (Gallo, 1987; Gessain, 1992), suggesting provirus rather than virus transmission.

HTLV-I is genetically more complex than other animal oncornavirus and is the only human oncornavirus known in addition to HTLV-II (Kalyanaraman, 1982). The genetic 10 complexity of HTLV-I more closely resembles that of HIV (Gallo, 1986). In fact, HTLVs and HIVs share regulatory proteins with similar function (tax/tat, rex/rev) and a number of auxiliary genes [vpf, vif, nef, vpu for HIV-1 (Haseltine, 1989), P12^I, p13^{II}, p30^{II} and p21^{rex} (Kiyokawa, 15 1985; Koralnik, 1993) for HTLV-I], which may be involved in adaptation of these pathogens for infecting human T-cells. Both viruses infect CD4⁺ T-cells *in vivo* and *in vitro* (6, 13, 14), but the HTLVs also infect other T-cell subtypes.

20 Genetic and immunological variation (LaRosa, 1990; Rusche, 1988) is a concern in product development with respect to HIV (e.g., vaccine development), whereas in the case of HTLV-I, genetic variation is very low (Gessain, 1992; Paine, 1991; Schulz, 1991; Komourian, 25 1991). However, the discovery of other genetically distinct HTLV-I types from the equatorial area of Zaire (Gessain, 1992) and Melanesia (Gessain, 1993; Sherman, 1992), in addition to the cosmopolitan HTLV-I and HTLV-II (9), have provided a spectrum of genetic variants 30 (variation ranges from 3 to 30% in the envelope gene) that can be used in challenge experiments of immunized rabbits. Preliminary experiments have shown that although cross-neutralization among the African, cosmopolitan and Melanesian HTLVs can be detected 35 (Benson, 1994), titers are low against heterologous viruses, indicating that if neutralizing antibodies are important in protection against natural HTLV infection, a

vaccine should be composed of more than one genetic variant. An effective means to express HTLV-I products would be beneficial, for instance, as an immunological composition or vaccine composition, or as a means to 5 prepare such compositions, or for preparing HTLV-I products or antibodies thereto for assays, kits or tests, especially considering areas of the world where HTLV-I is endemic, such as parts of Japan, the Caribbean, parts of Africa and South America. For instance, a highly 10 attenuated poxvirus HTLV-I_{env} alone or in combination with a subunit boost of the purified HTLV-I precursor envelope protein (gp63) would be useful as an immunological or vaccine composition or to prepare antigens or antibodies for assays, kits or tests.

15 Rabbits are very sensitive to HTLV-I infection but do not develop diseases resembling human ATL or TSP/HAM (Miyoshi, 1985). However, HTLV-I infection of rabbits represents an economical and efficient animal model for vaccine studies.

20 It can thus be appreciated that provision of an HTLV recombinant poxvirus, and of compositions and products therefrom particularly NYVAC or ALVAC based HTLV recombinants and compositions and products therefrom, especially such recombinants containing coding for any or 25 all of HTLV_{env}, and compositions and products therefrom would be a highly desirable advance over the current state of technology.

OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is therefore an object of this invention to 30 provide modified recombinant viruses, which viruses have enhanced safety, and to provide a method of making such recombinant viruses.

It is an additional object of this invention to provide a recombinant poxvirus antigenic, vaccine or 35 immunological composition having an increased level of safety compared to known recombinant poxvirus vaccines.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a modified vector for expressing a gene product in a host, wherein the vector is modified so that it has attenuated virulence in the host.

5 It is another object of this invention to provide a method for expressing a gene product in a cell cultured in vitro using a modified recombinant virus or modified vector having an increased level of safety.

These and other objects and advantages of the
10 present invention will become more readily apparent after consideration of the following.

In one aspect, the present invention relates to a modified recombinant virus having inactivated virus-encoded genetic functions so that the recombinant virus
15 has attenuated virulence and enhanced safety. The functions can be non-essential, or associated with virulence. The virus is advantageously a poxvirus, particularly a vaccinia virus or an avipox virus, such as fowlpox virus and canarypox virus. The modified
20 recombinant virus can include, within a non-essential region of the virus genome, a heterologous DNA sequence which encodes an antigen or epitope derived from HTLV such as HTLV_{env}.

In another aspect, the present invention relates to
25 an antigenic, immunological or vaccine composition or a therapeutic composition for inducing an antigenic or immunological response in a host animal inoculated with the composition, said vaccine including a carrier and a modified recombinant virus having inactivated
30 nonessential virus-encoded genetic functions so that the recombinant virus has attenuated virulence and enhanced safety. The virus used in the composition according to the present invention is advantageously a poxvirus, particularly a vaccinia virus or an avipox virus, such as fowlpox virus and canarypox virus. The modified
35 recombinant virus can include, within a non-essential region of the virus genome, a heterologous DNA sequence

which encodes an antigenic protein, e.g., derived from HTLV, such as HTLV_{env}.

In yet another aspect, the present invention relates to an immunogenic composition containing a modified recombinant virus having inactivated nonessential virus-encoded genetic functions so that the recombinant virus has attenuated virulence and enhanced safety. The modified recombinant virus includes, within a non-essential region of the virus genome, a heterologous DNA sequence which encodes an antigenic protein (e.g., derived from HTLV, such as HTLV_{env}) wherein the composition, when administered to a host, is capable of inducing an immunological response specific to the antigen.

15 In a further aspect, the present invention relates to a method for expressing a gene product in a cell *in vitro* by introducing into the cell a modified recombinant virus having attenuated virulence and enhanced safety. The modified recombinant virus can include, within a nonessential region of the virus genome, a heterologous DNA sequence which encodes an antigenic protein, e.g. derived from HTLV such as HTLV_{env}. The cells can then be reinfused directly into the individual or used to amplify specific reactivities for reinfusion (*Ex vivo* therapy).

20 25 In a further aspect, the present invention relates to a method for expressing a gene product in a cell cultured *in vitro* by introducing into the cell a modified recombinant virus having attenuated virulence and enhanced safety. The modified recombinant virus can include, within a non-essential region of the virus genome, a heterologous DNA sequence which encodes an antigenic protein, e.g., derived from HTLV such as HTLV_{env}. The product can then be administered to individuals or animals to stimulate an immune response.

30 35 The antibodies raised can be useful in individuals for the prevention or treatment of HTLV and, the antibodies from individuals or animals or the isolated *in vitro*

expression products can be used in diagnostic kits, assays or tests to determine the presence or absence in a sample such as sera of HTLV or antigens therefrom or antibodies thereto (and therefore the absence or presence 5 of the virus or of the products, or of an immune response to the virus or antigens).

In a still further aspect, the present invention relates to a modified recombinant virus having nonessential virus-encoded genetic functions inactivated 10 therein so that the virus has attenuated virulence, and wherein the modified recombinant virus further contains DNA from a heterologous source in a nonessential region of the virus genome. The DNA can code for HTLV such as HTLV_{env}. In particular, the genetic functions are 15 inactivated by deleting an open reading frame encoding a virulence factor or by utilizing naturally host restricted viruses. The virus used according to the present invention is advantageously a poxvirus, particularly a vaccinia virus or an avipox virus, such as 20 fowlpox virus and canarypox virus. Advantageously, the open reading frame is selected from the group consisting of J2R, B13R + B14R, A26L, A56R, C7L - K1L, and I4L (by the terminology reported in Goebel et al., 1990a,b); and, the combination thereof. In this respect, the open 25 reading frame comprises a thymidine kinase gene, a hemorrhagic region, an A type inclusion body region, a hemagglutinin gene, a host range gene region or a large subunit, ribonucleotide reductase; or, the combination thereof. A suitable modified Copenhagen strain of 30 vaccinia virus is identified as NYVAC (Tartaglia et al., 1992), or a vaccinia virus from which has been deleted J2R, B13R+B14R, A26L, A56R, C7L-K1l and I4L or a thymidine kinase gene, a hemorrhagic region, an A type inclusion body region, a hemagglutinin gene, a host range 35 region, and a large subunit, ribonucleotide reductase (See also U.S. Patent No. 5,364,773). Alternatively, a suitable poxvirus is an ALVAC or, a canarypox virus

(Rentschler vaccine strain) which was attenuated, for instance, through more than 200 serial passages on chick embryo fibroblasts, a master seed therefrom was subjected to four successive plaque purifications under agar from 5 which a plaque clone was amplified through five additional passages.

The invention in yet a further aspect relates to the product of expression of the inventive recombinant poxvirus and uses therefor, such as to form antigenic, 10 immunological or vaccine compositions for treatment, prevention, diagnosis or testing.

These and other embodiments are disclosed or are obvious from and encompassed by the follow detailed description.

15

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The following detailed description, given by way of example, but not intended to limit the invention solely to the specific embodiments described, may best be understood in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, 20 in which:

FIG. 1 schematically shows a method for the construction of plasmid pSD460 for deletion of thymidine kinase gene and generation of recombinant vaccinia virus vP410;

25 FIG. 2 schematically shows a method for the construction of plasmid pSD486 for deletion of hemorrhagic region and generation of recombinant vaccinia virus vP553;

FIG. 3 schematically shows a method for the 30 construction of plasmid pMP494Δ for deletion of ATI region and generation of recombinant vaccinia virus vP618;

FIG. 4 schematically shows a method for the 35 construction of plasmid pSD467 for deletion of hemagglutinin gene and generation of recombinant vaccinia virus vP723;

FIG. 5 schematically shows a method for the construction of plasmid pMPCK1A for deletion of gene cluster [C7L - K1L] and generation of recombinant vaccinia virus vP804;

5 FIG. 6 schematically shows a method for the construction of plasmid pSD548 for deletion of large subunit, ribonucleotide reductase and generation of recombinant vaccinia virus vP866 (NYVAC);

10 FIG. 7 schematically shows a method for the construction of plasmid pRW842 for insertion of rabies glycoprotein G gene into the TK deletion locus and generation of recombinant vaccinia virus vP879;

15 FIG. 8 shows the DNA sequence (SEQ ID NO:27) of a canarypox PvuII fragment containing the C5 ORF.

FIGS. 9A and 9B schematically show a method for the construction of recombinant canarypox virus vCP65 (ALVAC-RG);

20 FIG. 10 shows schematically the ORFs deleted to generate NYVAC;

FIGS. 11A to 11D show graphs of rabies neutralizing antibody titers (RFFIT, IU/ml), booster effect of HDC and vCP65 ($10^{5.5}$ TCID₅₀) in volunteers previously immunized with either the same or the alternate vaccine (vaccines given at days 0, 28 and 180, antibody titers measured at 25 days 0, 7, 28, 35, 56, 173, 187 and 208); and

FIGS. 12 and 13 show serological analyses of animals inoculated with ALVAC, R-ALVAC (ALVAC-HTLV; vCP203), NYVAC, R-NYVAC (NYVAC-HTLV; vP1181) and challenged with HTLV-infected cells or blood.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

To develop a new vaccinia vaccine strain, NYVAC (vP866), the Copenhagen vaccine strain of vaccinia virus was modified by the deletion of six nonessential regions of the genome encoding known or potential virulence factors. The sequential deletions are detailed below (See U.S. Patent No. 5,364,773). All designations of vaccinia restriction fragments, open reading frames and

nucleotide positions are based on the terminology reported in Goebel et al., 1990a,b.

The deletion loci were also engineered as recipient loci for the insertion of foreign genes.

5 The regions deleted in NYVAC are listed below. Also listed are the abbreviations and open reading frame designations for the deleted regions (Goebel et al., 1990a,b) and the designation of the vaccinia recombinant (vP) containing all deletions through the deletion
10 specified:

- (1) thymidine kinase gene (TK; J2R) vP410;
- (2) hemorrhagic region (u; B13R + B14R) vP553;
- (3) A type inclusion body region (ATI; A26L) vP618;
- (4) hemagglutinin gene (HA; A56R) vP723;
- 15 (5) host range gene region (C7L - K1L) vP804; and
- (6) large subunit, ribonucleotide reductase (I4L) vP866 (NYVAC).

NYVAC is a genetically engineered vaccinia virus strain that was generated by the specific deletion of
20 eighteen open reading frames encoding gene products associated with virulence and host range. NYVAC is highly attenuated by a number of criteria including i) decreased virulence after intracerebral inoculation in newborn mice, ii) inocuity in genetically (nu⁺/nu⁺) or chemically (cyclophosphamide) immunocompromised mice,
25 iii) failure to cause disseminated infection in immunocompromised mice, iv) lack of significant induration and ulceration on rabbit skin, v) rapid clearance from the site of inoculation, and vi) greatly reduced replication competency on a number of tissue culture cell lines including those of human origin.
30 Nevertheless, NYVAC based vectors induce excellent responses to extrinsic immunogens and provided protective immunity.

35 TROVAC refers to an attenuated fowlpox that was a plaque-cloned isolate derived from the FP-1 vaccine strain of fowlpoxvirus which is licensed for vaccination

of 1 day old chicks. ALVAC is an attenuated canarypox virus-based vector that was a plaque-cloned derivative of the licensed canarypox vaccine, Kanapox (Tartaglia et al., 1992). ALVAC has some general properties which are 5 the same as some general properties of Kanapox. ALVAC-based recombinant viruses expressing extrinsic immunogens have also been demonstrated efficacious as vaccine vectors (Tartaglia et al., 1993 a,b). This avipox vector is restricted to avian species for productive 10 replication. On human cell cultures, canarypox virus replication is aborted early in the viral replication cycle prior to viral DNA synthesis. Nevertheless, when engineered to express extrinsic immunogens, authentic expression and processing is observed *in vitro* in 15 mammalian cells and inoculation into numerous mammalian species induces antibody and cellular immune responses to the extrinsic immunogen and provides protection against challenge with the cognate pathogen (Taylor et al., 1992; Taylor et al., 1991). Recent Phase I clinical trials in 20 both Europe and the United States of a canarypox/rabies glycoprotein recombinant (ALVAC-RG) demonstrated that the experimental vaccine was well tolerated and induced protective levels of rabiesvirus neutralizing antibody titers (Cadoz et al., 1992; Fries et al., 1992). 25 Additionally, peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMCs) derived from the ALVAC-RG vaccines demonstrated significant levels of lymphocyte proliferation when stimulated with purified rabies virus (Fries et al., 1992).

30 NYVAC, ALVAC and TROVAC have also been recognized as unique among all poxviruses in that the National Institutes of Health ("NIH") (U.S. Public Health Service), Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee, which issues guidelines for the physical containment of genetic 35 material such as viruses and vectors, i.e., guidelines for safety procedures for the use of such viruses and vectors which are based upon the pathogenicity of the

particular virus or vector, granted a reduction in physical containment level: from BSL2 to BSL1. No other poxvirus has a BSL1 physical containment level. Even the Copenhagen strain of vaccinia virus - the common smallpox 5 vaccine - has a higher physical containment level; namely, BSL2. Accordingly, the art has recognized that NYVAC, ALVAC and TROVAC have a lower pathogenicity than any other poxvirus.

The entire envelope protein of the human T-cell 10 leukemia/lymphoma virus type I (HTLV-I)_{17,11}, obtained from the DNA of a West African healthy HTLV-I-infected patient, was expressed in the highly attenuated poxvirus vaccine vectors ALVAC and NYVAC. Generation and expression of NYVAC- and ALVAC-based HTLV-I_{env} recombinant 15 viruses: HTLV-I_{env} sequences were derived from plasmid p17-11 which contains the SstI-SstI 8.5 kb HTLV-I genomic DNA. The poxvirus/HTLV-I_{env} expression cassette was constructed by fusing the env sequences in a precise ATG for ATG configuration with the vaccinia virus 20 early/immediate I3L promoter. Insertion plasmid pMAW018 was generated by inserting the I3L/HTLV-I_{env} expression cassette into the generic insertion plasmid pSPHA6. Plasmid pMAW018 was used in in vitro recombination assays 25 with NYVAC (vP866) as the rescuing virus to yield NYVAC HTLV-I_{env} (vP1181). Recombination with this plasmid inserted the I3L/HTLV-I_{env} expression cassette into the NYVAC HA locus. Insertion plasmid pMAW107 was generated by inserting the I3L/HTLV-I_{env} expression cassette into the generic insertion plasmid pVQC5LSP6. Plasmid pMAW017 30 was used in standard in vitro recombination assays with ALVAC (vCPpp) as rescue virus to yield ALVAC HTLV-I_{env} (vCP203). This insertion placed the I3L/HTLV-I_{env} expression cassette into the ALVAC C5 locus.

These recombinants were used to immunize New Zealand 35 white rabbits. Immunization regimens included inoculation of the poxvirus recombinant alone as well as prime-boost protocols using gp63 HTLV-I envelope

precursor protein in Alum as the subunit boost. Of course, gp63 HTLV envelope precursor can also be administered with or after the inventive recombinants. All animals were exposed to a HTLV-I cell-associated challenge (5×10^4 cells) from a primary culture of the HTLV-I_{BOU} isolate. The results indicated that two inoculations of 10^7 pfu of the ALVAC-based HTLV-I_{env} vaccine candidate protected animals against viral challenge 5 months following the last immunization.

However, a combination protocol with ALVAC-env and two additional boosts of gp63 surprisingly failed to confer protection suggesting that administration of the subunit preparation might be deleterious. More importantly, even a periodic vaccination immunization or administration regimen, e.g., triannual or biannual, of the inventive recombinants or of compositions containing such recombinants or expression products thereof for either animals such as rabbits or humans, is comprehended by the 5 month protection; for instance, even to assist in preventing animal populations such as domesticated animal populations, e.g., rabbit populations, from being HTLV infected or carriers, (the possibility of HTLV infected or carrier animals from the susceptibility of rabbits to HTLV and the possibility of close contact between man and animals or among animals.

Further, in the case of the NYVAC HTLV-I_{env} recombinant, protection was afforded as early as 2 months following the first immunization. The protected animals in the NYVAC and ALVAC trials were rechallenged 5 months following the initial challenge exposure with 5 ml of blood from an HTLV-I_{BOU}-infected animal, and subsequently become infected. However, the expression by and protection conferred by the recombinants demonstrates their utility and the utility of their expression products in compositions and methods.

Clearly based on the attenuation profiles of the NYVAC, ALVAC, and TROVAC vectors and their demonstrated

ability to elicit both humoral and cellular immunological responses to extrinsic immunogens (Tartaglia et al., 1993a,b; Taylor et al., 1992; Konishi et al., 1992) such recombinant viruses offer a distinct advantage over 5 previously described vaccinia-based recombinant viruses.

The administration procedure for recombinant virus or expression product thereof, compositions of the invention such as immunological, antigenic or vaccine compositions or therapeutic compositions can be via a 10 parenteral route (intradermal, intramuscular or subcutaneous). Such an administration enables a systemic immune response.

More generally, the inventive antigenic, immunological or vaccine compositions or therapeutic 15 compositions (compositions containing the poxvirus recombinants of the invention) can be prepared in accordance with standard techniques well known to those skilled in the pharmaceutical art. Such compositions can be administered in dosages and by techniques well known 20 to those skilled in the medical arts taking into consideration such factors as the age, sex, weight, and condition of the particular patient, and the route of administration. The compositions can be administered alone, or can be co-administered or sequentially 25 administered with compositions of the invention or with other immunological, antigenic or vaccine or therapeutic compositions in seropositive individuals. The compositions can be administered alone, or can be co-administered or sequentially administered with 30 compositions of the invention or with other antigenic, immunological, vaccine or therapeutic compositions in seronegative individuals. Such other compositions can include purified antigens from HTLV or from the expression of such antigens by a recombinant poxvirus or 35 other vector system or, such other compositions can include a recombinant poxvirus which expresses other HTLV antigens or biological response modifiers again taking

into consideration such factors as the age, sex, weight, and condition of the particular patient, and, the route of administration.

Examples of compositions of the invention include 5 liquid preparations for orifice, e.g., oral, nasal, anal, vaginal, etc., administration such as suspensions, syrups or elixirs; and, preparations for parenteral, subcutaneous, intradermal, intramuscular or intravenous administration (e.g., injectable administration) such as 10 sterile suspensions or emulsions. In such compositions the recombinant poxvirus may be in admixture with a suitable carrier, diluent, or excipient such as sterile water, physiological saline, glucose or the like.

Further, the products of expression of the inventive 15 recombinant poxviruses can be used directly to stimulate an immune response in either seronegative or seropositive individuals or in animals. Thus, the expression products can be used in compositions of the invention instead of 20 in addition to the inventive recombinant poxvirus in the aforementioned compositions.

Additionally, the inventive recombinant poxvirus and the expression products therefrom stimulate an immune or antibody response in humans and animals and therefore those products are antigens. From those antibodies or 25 antigens, by techniques well-known in the art, monoclonal antibodies can be prepared and, those monoclonal antibodies or the antigens, can be employed in well known antibody binding assays, diagnostic kits or tests to determine the presence or absence of particular HTLV 30 antigen(s) and therefore the presence or absence of the virus or expression of the antigen(s) (in HTLV or other systems), or to determine whether an immune response to the virus or antigen(s) has simply been stimulated. Those monoclonal antibodies or the antigens can also be 35 employed in immunoadsorption chromatography to recover or isolate HTLV or expression products of the inventive recombinant poxvirus.

More in particular, the inventive recombinants and compositions have numerous utilities, including:

- (i) inducing an immunological response in seronegative individuals (use as or as part of a vaccine regimen);
- 5 (ii) therapy in seropositive individuals; and
- (iii) a means for generating HTLV protein in vitro without the risk of virus infection.

The products of expression of the inventive recombinant poxvirus can be used directly to stimulate an immune response in either seronegative or seropositive individuals or in animals. Thus, the expression products can be used in compositions of the invention instead of or in addition to the inventive recombinant poxvirus.

15 Additionally, the inventive recombinant poxvirus and the expression products therefrom stimulate an immune or antibody response in humans and animals. From those antibodies, by techniques well-known in the art, monoclonal antibodies can be prepared and, those 20 monoclonal antibodies or the expression products of the inventive poxvirus and composition can be employed in well known antibody binding assays, diagnostic kits or tests to determine the presence or absence of particular HTLV antigen(s) or antibody(ies) and therefore the 25 presence or absence of the virus, or to determine whether an immune response to the virus or antigen(s) has simply been stimulated. Those monoclonal antibodies can also be employed in immunoadsorption chromatography to recover, isolate or detect HTLV or expression products of the 30 inventive recombinant poxvirus. Methods for producing monoclonal antibodies and for uses of monoclonal antibodies, and, of uses and methods for HTLV antigens - the expression products of the inventive poxvirus and composition - are well known to those of ordinary skill 35 in the art. They can be used in diagnostic methods, kits, tests or assays, as well as to recover materials by

immunoadsorption chromatography or by immunoprecipitation.

Monoclonal antibodies are immunoglobulins produced by hybridoma cells. A monoclonal antibody reacts with a single antigenic determinant and provides greater specificity than a conventional, serum-derived antibody. Furthermore, screening a large number of monoclonal antibodies makes it possible to select an individual antibody with desired specificity, avidity and isotype.

Hybridoma cell lines provide a constant, inexpensive source of chemically identical antibodies and preparations of such antibodies can be easily standardized. Methods for producing monoclonal antibodies are well known to those of ordinary skill in the art, e.g., Koprowski, H. et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,196,265, issued April 1, 1980, incorporated herein by reference.

Uses of monoclonal antibodies are known. One such use is in diagnostic methods, e.g., David, G. and Greene, H. U.S. Patent No. 4,376,110, issued March 8, 1983; incorporated herein by reference. Monoclonal antibodies have also been used to recover materials by immunoabsorption chromatography, e.g., Milstein, C. 1980, Scientific American 243:66, 70, incorporated herein by reference.

Furthermore, the inventive recombinant poxvirus or expression products therefrom can be used to stimulate a response in cells in vitro or ex vivo for subsequent reinfusion into a patient. If the patient is seronegative, the reinfusion is to stimulate an immune response, e.g., an immunological or antigenic response such as active immunization. In a seropositive individual, the reinfusion is to stimulate or boost the immune system against HTLV.

Accordingly, the inventive recombinant poxvirus has several utilities: In antigenic, immunological or vaccine compositions such as for administration to

seronegative individuals. In therapeutic compositions in seropositive individuals in need of therapy to stimulate or boost the immune system against HTLV. *In vitro* to produce antigens which can be further used in antigenic, 5 immunological or vaccine compositions or in therapeutic compositions. To generate antibodies (either by direct administration or by administration of an expression product of the inventive recombinant poxvirus) or expression products or antigens which can be further 10 used: in diagnosis, tests or kits to ascertain the presence or absence of antigens in a sample such as sera, for instance, to ascertain the presence or absence of HTLV in a sample such as sera or, to determine whether an immune response has elicited to the virus or, to 15 particular antigen(s); or, in immunoabsorption chromatography, immunoprecipitation and the like. With respect to the use of recombinant antigens in assays, kits or tests, reference is made to European Patent Application No. 89 202 922.4, filed November 20, 1989, 20 entitled, "Skin Test and Test Kit For Aids," NTIS publication No. P890-238429 entitled, "Cloning and Expression of HTLV-III DNA," published in about November, 1990 (Chang, USSN 06/693,866, filed January 23, 1985), each of which is incorporated herein by reference, and, 25 as to assays employing antigens, reference is made to Essex, et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,725,669, incorporated herein by reference.

Other utilities also exist for embodiments of the invention. 30 A better understanding of the present invention and of its many advantages will be had from the following examples, given by way of illustration.

EXAMPLES

DNA Cloning and Synthesis. Plasmids were 35 constructed, screened and grown by standard procedures (Maniatis et al., 1982; Perkus et al., 1985; Piccini et al., 1987). Restriction endonucleases were obtained from

Bethesda Research Laboratories, Gaithersburg, MD, New England Biolabs, Beverly, MA; and Boehringer Mannheim Biochemicals, Indianapolis, IN. Klenow fragment of *E. coli* polymerase was obtained from Boehringer Mannheim Biochemicals. BAL-31 exonuclease and phage T4 DNA ligase were obtained from New England Biolabs. The reagents were used as specified by the various suppliers.

Synthetic oligodeoxyribonucleotides were prepared on a Biosearch 8750 or Applied Biosystems 380B DNA synthesizer as previously described (Perkus et al., 1989). DNA sequencing was performed by the dideoxy-chain termination method (Sanger et al., 1977) using Sequenase (Tabor et al., 1987) as previously described (Guo et al., 1989). DNA amplification by polymerase chain reaction (PCR) for sequence verification (Engelke et al., 1988) was performed using custom synthesized oligonucleotide primers and GeneAmp DNA amplification Reagent Kit (Perkin Elmer Cetus, Norwalk, CT) in an automated Perkin Elmer Cetus DNA Thermal Cycler. Excess DNA sequences were deleted from plasmids by restriction endonuclease digestion followed by limited digestion by BAL-31 exonuclease and mutagenesis (Mandecki, 1986) using synthetic oligonucleotides.

Cells, Virus, and Transfection. The origins and conditions of cultivation of the Copenhagen strain of vaccinia virus has been previously described (Guo et al., 1989). Generation of recombinant virus by recombination, *in situ* hybridization of nitrocellulose filters and screening for B-galactosidase activity are as previously described (Piccini et al., 1987).

The origins and conditions of cultivation of the Copenhagen strain of vaccinia virus and NYVAC has been previously described (Guo et al., 1989; Tartaglia et al., 1992). Generation of recombinant virus by recombination, *in situ* hybridization of nitrocellulose filters and screening for B-galactosidase activity are as previously described (Panicali et al., 1982; Perkus et al., 1989).

The parental canarypox virus (Rentschler strain) is a vaccinal strain for canaries. The vaccine strain was obtained from a wild type isolate and attenuated through more than 200 serial passages on chick embryo fibroblasts. A master viral seed was subjected to four successive plaque purifications under agar and one plaque clone was amplified through five additional passages after which the stock virus was used as the parental virus in *in vitro* recombination tests. The plaque purified canarypox isolate is designated ALVAC.

The strain of fowlpox virus (FPV) designated FP-1 has been described previously (Taylor et al., 1988a). It is an attenuated vaccine strain useful in vaccination of day old chickens. The parental virus strain Duvette was obtained in France as a fowlpox scab from a chicken. The virus was attenuated by approximately 50 serial passages in chicken embryonated eggs followed by 25 passages on chicken embryo fibroblast cells. The virus was subjected to four successive plaque purifications. One plaque isolate was further amplified in primary CEF cells and a stock virus, designated as TROVAC, established.

NYVAC, ALVAC and TROVAC viral vectors and their derivatives were propagated as described previously (Piccini et al., 1987; Taylor et al., 1988a,b). Vero cells and chick embryo fibroblasts (CEF) were propagated as described previously (Taylor et al., 1988a,b).

As to NYVAC and especially Examples 1 to 6, reference's made to U.S. Patent No. 5,364,773, incorporated herein by reference.

EXAMPLE 1 - CONSTRUCTION OF PLASMID pSD460 FOR DELETION OF THYMIDINE KINASE GENE (J2R)

Referring now to FIG. 1, plasmid pSD406 contains 5 vaccinia HindIII J (pos. 83359 - 88377) cloned into pUC8. pSD406 was cut with HindIII and PvuII, and the 1.7 kb fragment from the left side of HindIII J cloned into pUC8 cut with HindIII/SmaI, forming pSD447. pSD447 contains the entire gene for J2R (pos. 83855 - 84385). The 10 initiation codon is contained within an NlaIII site and the termination codon is contained within an SspI site. Direction of transcription is indicated by an arrow in FIG. 1.

To obtain a left flanking arm, a 0.8 kb 15 HindIII/EcoRI fragment was isolated from pSD447, then digested with NlaIII and a 0.5 kb HindIII/NlaIII fragment isolated. Annealed synthetic oligonucleotides MPSYN43/MPSYN44 (SEQ ID NO:1/SEQ ID NO:2)

20	MPSYN43	5'	TAATTAACCTAGCTACCCGGG	3'
	MPSYN44	3'	GTACATTAATTGATCGATGGGCCCTTAA	5'
			<u>Nla</u> III	<u>Eco</u> RI

were ligated with the 0.5 kb HindIII/NlaIII fragment into 25 pUC18 vector plasmid cut with HindIII/EcoRI, generating plasmid pSD449.

To obtain a restriction fragment containing a vaccinia right flanking arm and pUC vector sequences, pSD447 was cut with SspI (partial) within vaccinia 30 sequences and HindIII at the pUC/vaccinia junction, and a 2.9 kb vector fragment isolated. This vector fragment was ligated with annealed synthetic oligonucleotides MPSYN45/MPSYN46 (SEQ ID NO:3/SEQ ID NO:4)

35	MPSYN45	5'	AGCTTCCC GG GTAAAGTAATACGTCAAGGAGAAAACGAA	
	MPSYN46	3'	AGGGCCCATT CATTATGCAGTT CCTCTTTGCTT	
			<u>Hind</u> III	<u>Sma</u> I
40			ACGATCTGTAGTTAGCGGGCCGCTAATTAACATAAT	3' MPSYN45
			TGCTAGACATCAATCGCCGGCGGATTAATTGATTA	5' MPSYN46
			<u>Not</u> I	<u>Ssp</u> I

generating pSD459.

To combine the left and right flanking arms into one plasmid, a 0.5 kb HindIII/SmaI fragment was isolated from pSD449 and ligated with pSD459 vector plasmid cut with HindIII/SmaI, generating plasmid pSD460. pSD460 was used
5 as donor plasmid for recombination with wild type parental vaccinia virus Copenhagen strain VC-2. ³²P labelled probe was synthesized by primer extension using MPSYN45 (SEQ ID NO:3) as template and the complementary 20mer oligonucleotide MPSYN47 (SEQ ID NO:5)
10 (5' TTAGTTAATTAGGCGGCCGC 3') as primer. Recombinant virus vP410 was identified by plaque hybridization.

EXAMPLE 2 - CONSTRUCTION OF PLASMID pSD486 FOR DELETION OF HEMORRHAGIC REGION (B13R + B14R)

15 Referring now to FIG. 2, plasmid pSD419 contains vaccinia SalI G (pos. 160,744-173,351) cloned into pUC8. pSD422 contains the contiguous vaccinia SalI fragment to the right, SalI J (pos. 173,351-182,746) cloned into pUC8. To construct a plasmid deleted for the hemorrhagic
20 region, u, B13R - B14R (pos. 172,549 - 173,552), pSD419 was used as the source for the left flanking arm and pSD422 was used as the source of the right flanking arm. The direction of transcription for the u region is indicated by an arrow in FIG. 2.

25 To remove unwanted sequences from pSD419, sequences to the left of the NcoI site (pos. 172,253) were removed by digestion of pSD419 with NcoI/SmaI followed by blunt ending with Klenow fragment of *E. coli* polymerase and ligation generating plasmid pSD476. A vaccinia right
30 flanking arm was obtained by digestion of pSD422 with HpaI at the termination codon of B14R and by digestion with NruI 0.3 kb to the right. This 0.3 kb fragment was isolated and ligated with a 3.4 kb HincII vector fragment isolated from pSD476, generating plasmid pSD477. The
35 location of the partial deletion of the vaccinia u region in pSD477 is indicated by a triangle. The remaining B13R coding sequences in pSD477 were removed by digestion with ClaI/HpaI, and the resulting vector fragment was ligated

with annealed synthetic oligonucleotides SD22mer/SD20mer
(SEQ ID NO:6/SEQ ID NO:7)

5 ClaI BamHI HpaI
SD22mer 5' CGATTACTATGAAGGGATCCGTT 3'
SD20mer 3' TAATGATACTTCCCTAGGCAA 5'

generating pSD479. pSD479 contains an initiation codon (underlined) followed by a BamHI site. To place *E. coli* Beta-galactosidase in the B13-B14 (u) deletion locus 10 under the control of the u promoter, a 3.2 kb BamHI fragment containing the Beta-galactosidase gene (Shapira et al., 1983) was inserted into the BamHI site of pSD479, generating pSD479BG. pSD479BG was used as donor plasmid for recombination with vaccinia virus vP410. Recombinant 15 vaccinia virus vP533 was isolated as a blue plaque in the presence of chromogenic substrate X-gal. In vP533 the B13R-B14R region is deleted and is replaced by Beta-galactosidase.

To remove Beta-galactosidase sequences from vP533, 20 plasmid pSD486, a derivative of pSD477 containing a polylinker region but no initiation codon at the u deletion junction, was utilized. First the ClaI/HpaI vector fragment from pSD477 referred to above was ligated with annealed synthetic oligonucleotides SD42mer/SD40mer 25 (SEQ ID NO:8/SEQ ID NO:9)

30 ClaI SacI XhoI HpaI
SD42mer 5' CGATTACTAGATCTGAGCTCCCCGGGCTCGAGGGATCCGTT
3'
SD40mer 3' TAATGATCTAGACTCGAGGGGCCGAGCTCCCTAGGCAA
5'
 BglII SmaI BamHI

generating plasmid pSD478. Next the EcoRI site at the pUC/vaccinia junction was destroyed by digestion of 35 pSD478 with EcoRI followed by blunt ending with Klenow fragment of *E. coli* polymerase and ligation, generating plasmid pSD478E-. pSD478E- was digested with BamHI and HpaI and ligated with annealed synthetic oligonucleotides HEM5/HEM6 (SEQ ID NO:10/SEQ ID NO:11)

40 BamHI EcoRI HpaI
HEM5 5' GATCCGAATTCTAGCT 3'
HEM6 3' GCTTAAGATCGA 5'

generating plasmid pSD486. pSD486 was used as donor plasmid for recombination with recombinant vaccinia virus vP533, generating vP553, which was isolated as a clear plaque in the presence of X-gal.

5 **EXAMPLE 3 - CONSTRUCTION OF PLASMID PMP494Δ FOR DELETION OF ATI REGION (A26L)**

Referring now to FIG. 3, pSD414 contains SalI B cloned into pUC8. To remove unwanted DNA sequences to 10 the left of the A26L region, pSD414 was cut with XbaI within vaccinia sequences (pos. 137,079) and with HindIII at the pUC/vaccinia junction, then blunt ended with Klenow fragment of *E. coli* polymerase and ligated, resulting in plasmid pSD483. To remove unwanted vaccinia 15 DNA sequences to the right of the A26L region, pSD483 was cut with EcoRI (pos. 140,665 and at the pUC/vaccinia junction) and ligated, forming plasmid pSD484. To remove the A26L coding region, pSD484 was cut with NdeI (partial) slightly upstream from the A26L ORF (pos. 20 139,004) and with HpaI (pos. 137,889) slightly downstream from the A26L ORF. The 5.2 kb vector fragment was isolated and ligated with annealed synthetic oligonucleotides ATI3/ATI4 (SEQ ID NO:12/SEQ ID NO:13)

25 NdeI
ATI3 5'
TATGAGTAACCTAACCTTTGTTAATTAAAAGTATATTCAAAAAATAAGT
ATI4 3'
ACTCATTGAATTGAGAAAACAATTAAATTTCATATAAGTTTTATTCA

30 BglII EcoRI HpaI
TATATAAAATAGATCTGAATTCTGGTT 3' ATI3
ATATATTATCTAGACTTAAGCAA 5' ATI4

reconstructing the region upstream from A26L and 35 replacing the A26L ORF with a short polylinker region containing the restriction sites BglII, EcoRI and HpaI, as indicated above. The resulting plasmid was designated pSD485. Since the BglII and EcoRI sites in the 40 polylinker region of pSD485 are not unique, unwanted BglII and EcoRI sites were removed from plasmid pSD483 (described above) by digestion with BglII (pos. 140,136) and with EcoRI at the pUC/vaccinia junction, followed by

blunt ending with Klenow fragment of *E. coli* polymerase and ligation. The resulting plasmid was designated pSD489. The 1.8 kb ClaI (pos. 137,198)/EcoRV (pos. 139,048) fragment from pSD489 containing the A26L ORF was replaced with the corresponding 0.7 kb polylinker-containing ClaI/EcoRV fragment from pSD485, generating pSD492. The BglII and EcoRI sites in the polylinker region of pSD492 are unique.

A 3.3 kb BglII cassette containing the *E. coli* Beta-galactosidase gene (Shapira et al., 1983) under the control of the vaccinia 11 kDa promoter (Bertholet et al., 1985; Perkus et al., 1990) was inserted into the BglII site of pSD492, forming pSD493KBG. Plasmid pSD493KBG was used in recombination with rescuing virus vP553. Recombinant vaccinia virus, vP581, containing Beta-galactosidase in the A26L deletion region, was isolated as a blue plaque in the presence of X-gal.

To generate a plasmid for the removal of Beta-galactosidase sequences from vaccinia recombinant virus vP581, the polylinker region of plasmid pSD492 was deleted by mutagenesis (Mandecki, 1986) using synthetic oligonucleotide MPSYN177 (SEQ ID NO:14)

(5' AAAATGGCGTGGATTGTTAACCTTATATAACTTATTTTGAAATATAC
3'). In the resulting plasmid, pMP494Δ, vaccinia DNA encompassing positions [137,889 - 138,937], including the entire A26L ORF is deleted. Recombination between the pMP494Δ and the Beta-galactosidase containing vaccinia recombinant, vP581, resulted in vaccinia deletion mutant vP618, which was isolated as a clear plaque in the presence of X-gal.

EXAMPLE 4 - CONSTRUCTION OF PLASMID pSD467 FOR DELETION OF HEMAGGLUTININ GENE (A56R)

Referring now to FIG. 4, vaccinia SalI G restriction fragment (pos. 160,744-173,351) crosses the HindIII A/B junction (pos. 162,539). pSD419 contains vaccinia SalI G cloned into pUC8. The direction of transcription for the hemagglutinin (HA) gene is indicated by an arrow in FIG.

4. Vaccinia sequences derived from HindIII B were removed by digestion of pSD419 with HindIII within vaccinia sequences and at the pUC/vaccinia junction followed by ligation. The resulting plasmid, pSD456,
5 contains the HA gene, A56R, flanked by 0.4 kb of vaccinia sequences to the left and 0.4 kb of vaccinia sequences to the right. A56R coding sequences were removed by cutting pSD456 with RsaI (partial; pos. 161,090) upstream from A56R coding sequences, and with EagI (pos. 162,054) near
10 the end of the gene. The 3.6 kb RsaI/EagI vector fragment from pSD456 was isolated and ligated with annealed synthetic oligonucleotides MPSYN59 (SEQ ID NO:15), MPSYN62 (SEQ ID NO:16), MPSYN60 (SEQ ID NO:17), and MPSYN61 (SEQ ID NO:18)

15 RsaI
MPSYN59 5' ACACGAATGATTTCTAAAGTATTTGGAAAGTTTATAGGT-
MPSYN62 3' TGTGCTTACTAAAAGATTCTAAACCTTCAAAATATCCA-

20 MPSYN59 AGTTGATAGAACAAAAATACATAATTT 3'
MPSYN62 TCAACTATCT 5'

MPSYN60 5' TGTAAGAAATAATCACTTTTATA-
MPSYN61 3' TGTTTTATGTATTAAAACATTTTATTTAGTGAAAAATAT-

25 BglII SmaI PstI EagI
MPSYN60 CTAAGATCTCCGGGCTGCAGC 3'
MPSYN61 GATTCTAGAGGGCCCGACGTGCCGG 5'

reconstructing the DNA sequences upstream from the A56R
30 ORF and replacing the A56R ORF with a polylinker region
as indicated above. The resulting plasmid is pSD466.
The vaccinia deletion in pSD466 encompasses positions
[161,185-162,053]. The site of the deletion in pSD466 is
indicated by a triangle in FIG. 4.

35 A 3.2 kb BglII/BamHI (partial) cassette containing
the *E. coli* Beta-galactosidase gene (Shapira et al.,
1983) under the control of the vaccinia 11 kDa promoter
(Bertholet et al., 1985; Guo et al., 1989) was inserted
into the BglII site of pSD466, forming pSD466KBG.
40 Plasmid pSD466KBG was used in recombination with rescuing
virus VP618. Recombinant vaccinia virus, VP708,

containing Beta-galactosidase in the A56R deletion, was isolated as a blue plaque in the presence of X-gal.

Beta-galactosidase sequences were deleted from vP708 using donor plasmid pSD467. pSD467 is identical to 5 pSD466, except that EcoRI, SmaI and BamHI sites were removed from the pUC/vaccinia junction by digestion of pSD466 with EcoRI/BamHI followed by blunt ending with Klenow fragment of *E. coli* polymerase and ligation. Recombination between vP708 and pSD467 resulted in 10 recombinant vaccinia deletion mutant, vP723, which was isolated as a clear plaque in the presence of X-gal.

EXAMPLE 5 - CONSTRUCTION OF PLASMID pMPCSK1A FOR DELETION OF OPEN READING FRAMES [C7L-K1L]

15 Referring now to FIG. 5, the following vaccinia clones were utilized in the construction of pMPCSK1A. pSD420 is SalI H cloned into pUC8. pSD435 is KpnI F cloned into pUC18. pSD435 was cut with SphI and religated, forming pSD451. In pSD451, DNA sequences to 20 the left of the SphI site (pos. 27,416) in HindIII M are removed (Perkus et al., 1990). pSD409 is HindIII M cloned into pUC8.

To provide a substrate for the deletion of the [C7L-K1L] gene cluster from vaccinia, *E. coli* Beta-galactosidase was first inserted into the vaccinia M2L deletion locus (Guo et al., 1990) as follows. To 25 eliminate the BglII site in pSD409, the plasmid was cut with BglII in vaccinia sequences (pos. 28,212) and with BamHI at the pUC/vaccinia junction, then ligated to form 30 plasmid pMP409B. pMP409B was cut at the unique SphI site (pos. 27,416). M2L coding sequences were removed by mutagenesis (Guo et al., 1990; Mandicki, 1986) using synthetic oligonucleotide

35 MPSYN82 (SEQ ID NO:19) 5' TTTCTGTATATTGCACCAATTTAGATCTT-
ACTCAAAATATGTAACAATA 3'

The resulting plasmid, pMP409D, contains a unique BglII site inserted into the M2L deletion locus as indicated 40 above. A 3.2 kb BamHI (partial)/BglII cassette

containing the *E. coli* Beta-galactosidase gene (Shapira et al., 1983) under the control of the 11 kDa promoter (Bertholet et al., 1985) was inserted into pMP409D cut with BglII. The resulting plasmid, pMP409DBG (Guo et al., 1990), was used as donor plasmid for recombination with rescuing vaccinia virus vP723. Recombinant vaccinia virus, vP784, containing Beta-galactosidase inserted into the M2L deletion locus, was isolated as a blue plaque in the presence of X-gal.

A plasmid deleted for vaccinia genes [C7L-K1L] was assembled in pUC8 cut with SmaI, HindIII and blunt ended with Klenow fragment of *E. coli* polymerase. The left flanking arm consisting of vaccinia HindIII C sequences was obtained by digestion of pSD420 with XbaI (pos. 18,628) followed by blunt ending with Klenow fragment of *E. coli* polymerase and digestion with BglII (pos. 19,706). The right flanking arm consisting of vaccinia HindIII K sequences was obtained by digestion of pSD451 with BglII (pos. 29,062) and EcoRV (pos. 29,778). The resulting plasmid, pMP581CK is deleted for vaccinia sequences between the BglII site (pos. 19,706) in HindIII C and the BglII site (pos. 29,062) in HindIII K. The site of the deletion of vaccinia sequences in plasmid pMP581CK is indicated by a triangle in FIG. 5.

To remove excess DNA at the vaccinia deletion junction, plasmid pMP581CK, was cut at the NcoI sites within vaccinia sequences (pos. 18,811; 19,655), treated with Bal-31 exonuclease and subjected to mutagenesis (Mandecki, 1986) using synthetic oligonucleotide MPSYN233 (SEQ ID NO:20)

5'-TGTCATTTAACACTATACTCATATTAAATAAAATAATTATTATT-3'.

The resulting plasmid, pMPCSK1Δ, is deleted for vaccinia sequences positions 18,805-29,108, encompassing 12 vaccinia open reading frames [C7L - K1L]. Recombination between pMPCSK1Δ and the Beta-galactosidase containing vaccinia recombinant, vP784, resulted in vaccinia

deletion mutant, vP804, which was isolated as a clear plaque in the presence of X-gal.

5 **EXAMPLE 6 - CONSTRUCTION OF PLASMID pSD548 FOR DELETION OF LARGE SUBUNIT, RIBONUCLEOTIDE REDUCTASE (I4L)**

Referring now to FIG. 6, plasmid pSD405 contains vaccinia HindIII I (pos. 63,875-70,367) cloned in pUC8. pSD405 was digested with EcoRV within vaccinia sequences (pos. 67,933) and with SmaI at the pUC/vaccinia junction, and ligated, forming plasmid pSD518. pSD518 was used as the source of all the vaccinia restriction fragments used in the construction of pSD548.

The vaccinia I4L gene extends from position 67,371-15 65,059. Direction of transcription for I4L is indicated by an arrow in FIG. 6. To obtain a vector plasmid fragment deleted for a portion of the I4L coding sequences, pSD518 was digested with BamHI (pos. 65,381) and HpaI (pos. 67,001) and blunt ended using Klenow 20 fragment of *E. coli* polymerase. This 4.8 kb vector fragment was ligated with a 3.2 kb SmaI cassette containing the *E. coli* Beta-galactosidase gene (Shapira et al., 1983) under the control of the vaccinia 11 kDa promoter (Bertholet et al., 1985; Perkus et al., 1990), 25 resulting in plasmid pSD524KBG. pSD524KBG was used as donor plasmid for recombination with vaccinia virus vP804. Recombinant vaccinia virus, vP855, containing Beta-galactosidase in a partial deletion of the I4L gene, was isolated as a blue plaque in the presence of X-gal.

30 To delete Beta-galactosidase and the remainder of the I4L ORF from vP855, deletion plasmid pSD548 was constructed. The left and right vaccinia flanking arms were assembled separately in pUC8 as detailed below and presented schematically in FIG. 6.

35 To construct a vector plasmid to accept the left vaccinia flanking arm, pUC8 was cut with BamHI/EcoRI and ligated with annealed synthetic oligonucleotides 518A1/518A2 (SEQ ID NO:21/SEQ ID NO:22)

BamHI RsaI

518A1 5' GATCCTGAGTACTTGTAAATATAATGATATATTTTCACTTATCTCAT
518A2 3'

5 GACTCATGAAACATTATATTACTATATAAAAAGTGAATAGAGTA

BglII EcoRI

TTGAGAATAAAAAGATCTTAGG 3' 518A1
AACTCTTATTTCTAGAACCTTAA 5' 518A2

10 forming plasmid pSD531. pSD531 was cut with RsaI
(partial) and BamHI and a 2.7 kb vector fragment
isolated. pSD518 was cut with BglII (pos. 64,459) / RsaI
(pos. 64,994) and a 0.5 kb fragment isolated. The two
15 fragments were ligated together, forming pSD537, which
contains the complete vaccinia flanking arm left of the
I4L coding sequences.

20 To construct a vector plasmid to accept the right
vaccinia flanking arm, pUC8 was cut with BamHI/EcoRI and
ligated with annealed synthetic oligonucleotides

518B1/518B2 (SEQ ID NO:23/SEQ ID NO:24)

BamHI BglII SmaI

25 5' GATCCAGATCTCCGGGGAAAAAAATTATTAACCTTTCACTTAATAG- 518B2
3' GTCTAGAGGGCCCTTTTTAATAAAATTGAAAAGTAATTATC-

RsaI EcoRI

GGATTGACGTATGTAGCGTACTAGG 3' 518B1
CCTAAACTGCATACTACCGCATGATCCTTAA 5' 518B2

30 forming plasmid pSD532. pSD532 was cut with RsaI
(partial) / EcoRI and a 2.7 kb vector fragment isolated.
pSD518 was cut with RsaI within vaccinia sequences (pos.
67,436) and EcoRI at the vaccinia/pUC junction, and a 0.6
35 kb fragment isolated. The two fragments were ligated
together, forming pSD538, which contains the complete
vaccinia flanking arm to the right of I4L coding
sequences.

40 The right vaccinia flanking arm was isolated as a
0.6 kb EcoRI/BglII fragment from pSD538 and ligated into
pSD537 vector plasmid cut with EcoRI/BglII. In the
resulting plasmid, pSD539, the I4L ORF (pos. 65,047-
67,386) is replaced by a polylinker region, which is
flanked by 0.6 kb vaccinia DNA to the left and 0.6 kb

vaccinia DNA to the right, all in a pUC background. The site of deletion within vaccinia sequences is indicated by a triangle in FIG. 6. To avoid possible recombination of Beta-galactosidase sequences in the pUC-derived portion of pSD539 with Beta-galactosidase sequences in recombinant vaccinia virus vP855, the vaccinia I4L deletion cassette was moved from pSD539 into pRC11, a pUC derivative from which all Beta-galactosidase sequences have been removed and replaced with a polylinker region (Colinas et al., 1990). PSD539 was cut with EcoRI/PstI and the 1.2 kb fragment isolated. This fragment was ligated into pRC11 cut with EcoRI/PstI (2.35 kb), forming pSD548. Recombination between PSD548 and the Beta-galactosidase containing vaccinia recombinant, vP855, resulted in vaccinia deletion mutant vP866, which was isolated as a clear plaque in the presence of X-gal.

DNA from recombinant vaccinia virus vP866 was analyzed by restriction digests followed by electrophoresis on an agarose gel. The restriction patterns were as expected. Polymerase chain reactions (PCR) (Engelke et al., 1988) using vP866 as template and primers flanking the six deletion loci detailed above produced DNA fragments of the expected sizes. Sequence analysis of the PCR generated fragments around the areas of the deletion junctions confirmed that the junctions were as expected. Recombinant vaccinia virus vP866, containing the six engineered deletions as described above, was designated vaccinia vaccine strain "NYVAC."

EXAMPLE 7 - INSERTION OF A RABIES GLYCOPROTEIN G GENE INTO NYVAC

The gene encoding rabies glycoprotein G under the control of the vaccinia H6 promoter (Taylor et al., 1988a,b) was inserted into TK deletion plasmid pSD513. PSD513 is identical to plasmid pSD460 (FIG. 1) except for the presence of a polylinker region.

Referring now to FIG. 7, the polylinker region was inserted by cutting pSD460 with SmaI and ligating the

plasmid vector with annealed synthetic oligonucleotides VQ1A/VQ1B (SEQ ID NO:25/SEQ ID NO:26)

SmaI BglII XbaI PstI NarI BamHI

VQ1A	5'	GGGAGATCTCTCGAGCTGCAGGGCGCCGGATCCTTTCT	3'
VQ1B	3'	CCCTCTAGAGAGCTCGACGTCCCCGGCCTAGGAAAAAGA	5'

to form vector plasmid pSD513. pSD513 was cut with SmaI and ligated with a SmaI ended 1.8 kb cassette containing the gene encoding the rabies glycoprotein G gene under 10 the control of the vaccinia H6 promoter (Taylor et al., 1988a,b). The resulting plasmid was designated pRW842. pRW842 was used as donor plasmid for recombination with NYVAC rescuing virus (vP866). Recombinant vaccinia virus vP879 was identified by plaque hybridization using ³²P-labelled DNA probe to rabies glycoprotein G coding 15 sequences.

The modified recombinant viruses of the present invention provide advantages as recombinant vaccine vectors. The attenuated virulence of the vector 20 advantageously reduces the opportunity for the possibility of a runaway infection due to vaccination in the vaccinated individual and also diminishes transmission from vaccinated to unvaccinated individuals or contamination of the environment.

25 The modified recombinant viruses are also advantageously used in a method for expressing a gene product in a cell cultured *in vitro* by introducing into the cell the modified recombinant virus having foreign DNA which codes for and expresses gene products in the 30 cell.

**EXAMPLE 8 - CONSTRUCTION OF ALVAC RECOMBINANTS
EXPRESSING RABIES VIRUS GLYCOPROTEIN G**

This example describes the development of ALVAC, a 35 canarypox virus vector and, of a canarypox-rabies recombinant designated as ALVAC-RG (vCP65) and its safety and efficacy.

Cells and Viruses. The parental canarypox virus (Rentschler strain) is a vaccinal strain for canaries. 40 The vaccine strain was obtained from a wild type isolate

and attenuated through more than 200 serial passages on chick embryo fibroblasts. A master viral seed was subjected to four successive plaque purifications under agar and one plaque clone was amplified through five additional passages after which the stock virus was used as the parental virus in *in vitro* recombination tests. The plaque purified canarypox isolate is designated ALVAC.

Construction of a Canarypox Insertion Vector. An 880 bp canarypox PvuII fragment was cloned between the PvuII sites of pUC9 to form pRW764.5. The sequence of this fragment is shown in FIG. 8 (SEQ ID NO. 27) between positions 1372 and 2251. The limits of an open reading frame designated as C5 were defined. It was determined that the open reading frame was initiated at position 166 within the fragment and terminated at position 487. The C5 deletion was made without interruption of open reading frames. Bases from position 167 through position 455 were replaced with the sequence (SEQ ID NO:28)

20 GCTTCCCCGGGAATTCTAGCTAGCTAGTTT. This replacement sequence contains HindIII, SmaI and EcoRI insertion sites followed by translation stops and a transcription termination signal recognized by vaccinia virus RNA polymerase (Yuen et al., 1987). Deletion of the C5 ORF was performed as described below. Plasmid pRW764.5 was partially cut with RsaI and the linear product was isolated. The RsaI linear fragment was recut with BglII and the pRW764.5 fragment now with a RsaI to BglII deletion from position 156 to position 462 was isolated and used as a vector for the following synthetic oligonucleotides:

30 RW145 (SEQ ID NO:29):

ACTCTAAAAGCTTCCCCGGGAATTCTAGCTAGCTAGTTTTATAAA

RW146 (SEQ ID NO:30):

GATCTTTATAAAAAGCTAGCTAGCTAGAATTCCCCGGGAAGCTTTGAGAGT

35 Oligonucleotides RW145 and RW146 were annealed and inserted into the pRW 764.5 RsaI and BglII vector

described above. The resulting plasmid is designated pRW831.

The diagram of annealed oligonucleotides A through E is as follows:

25

A

C

Oligonucleotides A through E were kinased, annealed (95°C for 5 minutes, then cooled to room temperature), and inserted between the PvuII sites of pUC9. The resulting plasmid, pRW737, was cut with HindIII and BglII and used as a vector for the 1.6 kbp HindIII-BglII fragment of ptg155PRO (Kieny et al., 1984) generating pRW739. The ptg155PRO HindIII site is 86 bp downstream of the rabies G translation initiation codon. BglII is downstream of the rabies G translation stop codon in ptg155PRO. pRW739 was partially cut with NruI,

completely cut with BglII, and a 1.7 kbp NruI-BglII fragment, containing the 3' end of the H6 promoter previously described (Taylor et al., 1988a,b; Guo et al., 1989; Perkus et al., 1989) through the entire rabies G 5 gene, was inserted between the NruI and BamHI sites of pRW824. The resulting plasmid is designated pRW832. Insertion into pRW824 added the H6 promoter 5' of NruI. The pRW824 sequence of BamHI followed by SmaI is (SEQ ID NO:36): GGATCCCCGGG. pRW824 is a plasmid that contains a 10 nonpertinent gene linked precisely to the vaccinia virus H6 promoter. Digestion with NruI and BamHI completely excised this nonpertinent gene. The 1.8 kbp pRW832 SmaI fragment, containing H6 promoted rabies G, was inserted into the SmaI of pRW831, to form plasmid pRW838.

15 Development of ALVAC-RG. Plasmid pRW838 was transfected into ALVAC infected primary CEF cells by using the calcium phosphate precipitation method previously described (Panicali et al., 1982; Piccini et al., 1987). Positive plaques were selected on the basis 20 of hybridization to a specific rabies G probe and subjected to 6 sequential rounds of plaque purification until a pure population was achieved. One representative plaque was then amplified and the resulting ALVAC recombinant was designated ALVAC-RG (vCP65) (see also 25 Figs. 9A and 9B). The correct insertion of the rabies G gene into the ALVAC genome without subsequent mutation was confirmed by sequence analysis.

30 Immunofluorescence. During the final stages of assembly of mature rabies virus particles, the glycoprotein component is transported from the golgi apparatus to the plasma membrane where it accumulates with the carboxy terminus extending into the cytoplasm and the bulk of the protein on the external surface of the cell membrane. In order to confirm that the rabies 35 glycoprotein expressed in ALVAC-RG was correctly presented, immunofluorescence was performed on primary CEF cells infected with ALVAC or ALVAC-RG.

Immunofluorescence was performed as previously described (Taylor et al., 1990) using a rabies G monoclonal antibody. Strong surface fluorescence was detected on CEF cells infected with ALVAC-RG but not with the 5 parental ALVAC.

Immunoprecipitation. Preformed monolayers of primary CEF, Vero (a line of African Green monkey kidney cells ATCC # CCL81) and MRC-5 cells (a fibroblast-like cell line derived from normal human fetal lung tissue 10 ATCC # CCL171) were inoculated at 10 pfu per cell with parental virus ALVAC and recombinant virus ALVAC-RG in the presence of radiolabelled ³⁵S-methionine and treated as previously described (Taylor et al., 1990). Immunoprecipitation reactions were performed using a 15 rabies G specific monoclonal antibody. Efficient expression of a rabies specific glycoprotein with a molecular weight of approximately 67 kDa was detected with the recombinant ALVAC-RG. No rabies specific products were detected in uninfected cells or cells 20 infected with the parental ALVAC virus.

Sequential Passaging Experiment. In studies with ALVAC virus in a range of non-avian species no proliferative infection or overt disease was observed (Taylor et al., 1991b). However, in order to establish 25 that neither the parental nor recombinant virus could be adapted to grow in non-avian cells, a sequential passaging experiment was performed.

The two viruses, ALVAC and ALVAC-RG, were inoculated in 10 sequential blind passages in three cell substrates: 30
(1) Primary chick embryo fibroblast (CEF) cells produced from 11 day old white leghorn embryos;
(2) Vero cells - a continuous line of African Green monkey kidney cells (ATCC # CCL81); and
(3) MRC-5 cells - a diploid cell line derived from 35 human fetal lung tissue (ATCC # CCL171).

The initial inoculation was performed at an m.o.i. of 0.1 pfu per cell using three 60mm dishes of each cell

substrate containing 2×10^6 cells per dish. One dish was inoculated in the presence of 40 μ g/ml of Cytosine arabinoside (Ara C), an inhibitor of DNA replication. After an absorption period of 1 hour at 37°C, the 5 inoculum was removed and the monolayer washed to remove unabsorbed virus. At this time the medium was replaced with 5ml of EMEM + 2% NBCS on two dishes (samples t0 and t7) and 5ml of EMEM + 2% NBCS containing 40 μ g/ml Ara C on the third (sample t7A). Sample t0 was frozen at -70°C 10 to provide an indication of the residual input virus. Samples t7 and t7A were incubated at 37°C for 7 days, after which time the contents were harvested and the cells disrupted by indirect sonication.

One ml of sample t7 of each cell substrate was 15 inoculated undiluted onto three dishes of the same cell substrate (to provide samples t0, t7 and t7A) and onto one dish of primary CEF cells. Samples t0, t7 and t7A were treated as for passage one. The additional inoculation on CEF cells was included to provide an 20 amplification step for more sensitive detection of virus which might be present in the non-avian cells.

This procedure was repeated for 10 (CEF and MRC-5) or 8 (Vero) sequential blind passages. Samples were then frozen and thawed three times and assayed by titration on 25 primary CEF monolayers.

Virus yield in each sample was then determined by plaque titration on CEF monolayers under agarose. Summarized results of the experiment are shown in Tables 1 and 2.

30 The results indicate that both the parental ALVAC and the recombinant ALVAC-RG are capable of sustained replication on CEF monolayers with no loss of titer. In Vero cells, levels of virus fell below the level of detection after 2 passages for ALVAC and 1 passage for 35 ALVAC-RG. In MRC-5 cells, a similar result was evident, and no virus was detected after 1 passage. Although the results for only four passages are shown in Tables 1 and

2 the series was continued for 8 (Vero) and 10 (MRC-5) passages with no detectable adaptation of either virus to growth in the non-avian cells.

In passage 1 relatively high levels of virus were
5 present in the t7 sample in MRC-5 and Vero cells. However this level of virus was equivalent to that seen in the t0 sample and the t7A sample incubated in the presence of Cytosine arabinoside in which no viral replication can occur. This demonstrated that the levels
10 of virus seen at 7 days in non-avian cells represented residual virus and not newly replicated virus.

In order to make the assay more sensitive, a portion of the 7 day harvest from each cell substrate was inoculated onto a permissive CEF monolayer and harvested
15 at cytopathic effect (CPE) or at 7 days if no CPE was evident. The results of this experiment are shown in Table 3. Even after amplification through a permissive cell substrate, virus was only detected in MRC-5 and Vero cells for two additional passages. These results
20 indicated that under the conditions used, there was no adaptation of either virus to growth in Vero or MRC-5 cells.

Inoculation of Macaques. Four HIV seropositive macaques were initially inoculated with ALVAC-RG as
25 described in Table 4. After 100 days these animals were re-inoculated to determine a booster effect, and an additional seven animals were inoculated with a range of doses. Blood was drawn at appropriate intervals and sera analyzed, after heat inactivation at 56°C for 30 minutes,
30 for the presence of anti-rabies antibody using the Rapid Fluorescent Focus Inhibition Assay (Smith et al., 1973).

Inoculation of Chimpanzees. Two adult male chimpanzees (50 to 65 kg weight range) were inoculated intramuscularly or subcutaneously with 1×10^7 pfu of
35 vCP65. Animals were monitored for reactions and bled at regular intervals for analysis for the presence of anti-rabies antibody with the RFFI test (Smith et al., 1973).

Animals were re-inoculated with an equivalent dose 13 weeks after the initial inoculation.

Inoculation of Mice. Groups of mice were inoculated with 50 to 100 μ l of a range of dilutions of different 5 batches of vCP65. Mice were inoculated in the footpad. On day 14, mice were challenged by intracranial inoculation of from 15 to 43 mouse LD₅₀ of the virulent CVS strain of rabies virus. Survival of mice was monitored and a protective dose 50% (PD₅₀) calculated at 10 28 days post-inoculation.

Inoculation of Dogs and Cats. Ten beagle dogs, 5 months old, and 10 cats, 4 months old, were inoculated subcutaneously with either 6.7 or 7.7 log₁₀ TCID₅₀ of ALVAC-RG. Four dogs and four cats were not inoculated. 15 Animals were bled at 14 and 28 days post-inoculation and anti-rabies antibody assessed in an RFFI test. The animals receiving 6.7 log₁₀ TCID₅₀ of ALVAC-RG were challenged at 29 days post-vaccination with 3.7 log₁₀ mouse LD₅₀ (dogs) or 4.3 log₁₀ mouse LD₅₀ (cats) of the 20 NYGS rabies virus challenge strain.

Inoculation of Squirrel Monkeys. Three groups of four squirrel monkeys (*Saimiri sciureus*) were inoculated with one of three viruses (a) ALVAC, the parental canarypox virus, (b) ALVAC-RG, the recombinant expressing 25 the rabies G glycoprotein or (c) vCP37, a canarypox recombinant expressing the envelope glycoprotein of feline leukemia virus. Inoculations were performed under ketamine anaesthesia. Each animal received at the same time: (1) 20 μ l instilled on the surface of the right eye 30 without scarification; (2) 100 μ l as several droplets in the mouth; (3) 100 μ l in each of two intradermal injection sites in the shaven skin of the external face of the right arm; and (4) 100 μ l in the anterior muscle of the right thigh.

35 Four monkeys were inoculated with each virus, two with a total of 5.0 log₁₀ pfu and two with a total of 7.0 log₁₀ pfu. Animals were bled at regular intervals and

sera analyzed for the presence of antirabies antibody using an RFFI test (Smith et al., 1973). Animals were monitored daily for reactions to vaccination. Six months after the initial inoculation the four monkeys receiving 5 ALVAC-RG, two monkeys initially receiving vCP37, and two monkeys initially receiving ALVAC, as well as one naive monkey were inoculated with $6.5 \log_{10}$ pfu of ALVAC-RG subcutaneously. Sera were monitored for the presence of rabies neutralizing antibody in an RFFI test (Smith et 10 al., 1973).

Inoculation of Human Cell Lines with ALVAC-RG. In order to determine whether efficient expression of a foreign gene could be obtained in non-avian cells in which the virus does not productively replicate, five 15 cell types, one avian and four non-avian, were analyzed for virus yield, expression of the foreign rabies G gene and viral specific DNA accumulation. The cells inoculated were:

- (a) Vero, African Green monkey kidney cells, ATCC # 20 CCL81;
- (b) MRC-5, human embryonic lung, ATCC # CCL 171;
- (c) WISH human amnion, ATCC # CCL 25;
- (d) Detroit-532, human foreskin, Downs's syndrome, ATCC # CCL 54; and
- (e) Primary CEF cells.

Chicken embryo fibroblast cells produced from 11 day old white leghorn embryos were included as a positive control. All inoculations were performed on preformed monolayers of 2×10^6 cells as discussed below.

30 A. Methods for DNA analysis.

Three dishes of each cell line were inoculated at 5 pfu/cell of the virus under test, allowing one extra dish of each cell line un-inoculated. One dish was incubated in the presence of 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$ of cytosine 35 arabinoside (Ara C). After an adsorption period of 60 minutes at 37°C, the inoculum was removed and the monolayer washed twice to remove unadsorbed virus.

Medium (with or without Ara C) was then replaced. Cells from one dish (without Ara C) were harvested as a time zero sample. The remaining dishes were incubated at 37°C for 72 hours, at which time the 5 cells were harvested and used to analyze DNA accumulation. Each sample of 2×10^6 cells was resuspended in 0.5 ml phosphate buffered saline (PBS) containing 40 mM EDTA and incubated for 5 minutes at 37°C. An equal volume of 1.5% agarose 10 prewarmed at 42°C and containing 120 mM EDTA was added to the cell suspension and gently mixed. The suspension was transferred to an agarose plug mold and allowed to harden for at least 15 min. The agarose plugs were then removed and incubated for 15 12-16 hours at 50°C in a volume of lysis buffer (1% sarkosyl, 100 µg/ml proteinase K, 10 mM Tris HCl pH 7.5, 200 mM EDTA) that completely covers the plug. The lysis buffer was then replaced with 5.0 ml 20 sterile 0.5 X TBE (44.5 mM Tris-borate, 44.5 mM boric acid, 0.5 mM EDTA) and equilibrated at 4°C for 6 hours with 3 changes of TBE buffer. The viral DNA within the plug was fractionated from cellular RNA 25 and DNA using a pulse field electrophoresis system. Electrophoresis was performed for 20 hours at 180 V with a ramp of 50-90 sec at 15°C in 0.5 X TBE. The DNA was run with lambda DNA molecular weight standards. After electrophoresis the viral DNA band was visualized by staining with ethidium bromide. The DNA was then transferred to a nitrocellulose 30 membrane and probed with a radiolabelled probe prepared from purified ALVAC genomic DNA.

B. Estimation of virus yield.

Dishes were inoculated exactly as described above, 35 with the exception that input multiplicity was 0.1 pfu/cell. At 72 hours post infection, cells were lysed by three successive cycles of freezing and

thawing. Virus yield was assessed by plaque titration on CEF monolayers.

c. Analysis of expression of Rabies G gene.

Dishes were inoculated with recombinant or parental virus at a multiplicity of 10 pfu/cell, allowing an additional dish as an uninfected virus control.

5 After a one hour absorption period, the medium was removed and replaced with methionine free medium.

10 After a 30 minute period, this medium was replaced with methionine-free medium containing 25 uCi/ml of ³⁵S-Methionine. Infected cells were labelled overnight (approximately 16 hours), then lysed by the addition of buffer A lysis buffer.

15 Immunoprecipitation was performed as previously described (Taylor et al., 1990) using a rabies G specific monoclonal antibody.

20 Results: Estimation of Viral Yield. The results of titration for yield at 72 hours after inoculation at 0.1 pfu per cell are shown in Table 5. The results indicate that while a productive infection can be attained in the avian cells, no increase in virus yield can be detected by this method in the four non-avian cell systems.

25 Analysis of Viral DNA Accumulation. In order to determine whether the block to productive viral replication in the non-avian cells occurred before or after DNA replication, DNA from the cell lysates was fractionated by electrophoresis, transferred to nitrocellulose and probed for the presence of viral specific DNA. DNA from uninfected CEF cells, ALVAC-RG 30 infected CEF cells at time zero, ALVAC-RG infected CEF cells at 72 hours post-infection and ALVAC-RG infected CEF cells at 72 hours post-infection in the presence of 40 µg/ml of cytosine arabinoside all showed some background activity, probably due to contaminating CEF 35 cellular DNA in the radiolabelled ALVAC DNA probe preparation. However, ALVAC-RG infected CEF cells at 72 hours post-infection exhibited a strong band in the

region of approximately 350 kbp representing ALVAC-specific viral DNA accumulation. No such band is detectable when the culture is incubated in the presence of the DNA synthesis inhibitor, cytosine arabinoside.

5 Equivalent samples produced in Vero cells showed a very faint band at approximately 350 kbp in the ALVAC-RG infected Vero cells at time zero. This level represented residual virus. The intensity of the band was amplified at 72 hours post-infection indicating that some level of
10 viral specific DNA replication had occurred in Vero cells which had not resulted in an increase in viral progeny. Equivalent samples produced in MRC-5 cells indicated that no viral specific DNA accumulation was detected under these conditions in this cell line. This experiment was
15 then extended to include additional human cell lines, specifically WISH and Detroit-532 cells. ALVAC infected CEF cells served as a positive control. No viral specific DNA accumulation was detected in either WISH or Detroit cells inoculated with ALVAC-RG. It should be
20 noted that the limits of detection of this method have not been fully ascertained and viral DNA accumulation may be occurring, but at a level below the sensitivity of the method. Other experiments in which viral DNA replication was measured by ³H-thymidine incorporation support the
25 results obtained with Vero and MRC-5 cells.

Analysis of Rabies Gene Expression. To determine if any viral gene expression, particularly that of the inserted foreign gene, was occurring in the human cell lines even in the absence of viral DNA replication,
30 immunoprecipitation experiments were performed on ³⁵S-methionine labelled lysates of avian and non-avian cells infected with ALVAC and ALVAC-RG. The results of immunoprecipitation using a rabies G specific monoclonal antibody illustrated specific immunoprecipitation of a 67
35 kDa glycoprotein in CEF, Vero and MRC-5, WISH and Detroit cells infected with ALVAC-RG. No such specific rabies

gene products were detected in any of the uninfected and parentally infected cell lysates.

The results of this experiment indicated that in the human cell lines analyzed, although the ALVAC-RG recombinant was able to initiate an infection and express a foreign gene product under the transcriptional control of the H6 early/late vaccinia virus promoter, the replication did not proceed through DNA replication, nor was there any detectable viral progeny produced. In the Vero cells, although some level of ALVAC-RG specific DNA accumulation was observed, no viral progeny was detected by these methods. These results would indicate that in the human cell lines analyzed the block to viral replication occurs prior to the onset of DNA replication, while in Vero cells, the block occurs following the onset of viral DNA replication.

In order to determine whether the rabies glycoprotein expressed in ALVAC-RG was immunogenic, a number of animal species were tested by inoculation of the recombinant. The efficacy of current rabies vaccines is evaluated in a mouse model system. A similar test was therefore performed using ALVAC-RG. Nine different preparations of virus (including one vaccine batch (J) produced after 10 serial tissue culture passages of the seed virus) with infectious titers ranging from 6.7 to 8.4 log₁₀ TCID₅₀ per ml were serially diluted and 50 to 100 µl of dilutions inoculated into the footpad of four to six week old mice. Mice were challenged 14 days later by the intracranial route with 300 µl of the CVS strain of rabies virus containing from 15 to 43 mouse LD₅₀ as determined by lethality titration in a control group of mice. Potency, expressed as the PD₅₀ (Protective dose 50%), was calculated at 14 days post-challenge. The results of the experiment are shown in Table 6. The results indicated that ALVAC-RG was consistently able to protect mice against rabies virus challenge with a PD₅₀ value ranging from 3.33 to 4.56 with a mean value of 3.73

unrelated canarypox virus recombinant was examined. Groups of monkeys were inoculated as described above and sera analyzed for the presence of rabies specific antibody. Apart from minor typical skin reactions to

5 inoculation by the intradermal route, no adverse reactivity was seen in any of the monkeys. Small amounts of residual virus were isolated from skin lesions after intradermal inoculation on days two and four post-inoculation only. All specimens were negative on day

10 seven and later. There was no local reaction to intramuscular injection. All four monkeys inoculated with ALVAC-RG developed anti-rabies serum neutralizing antibodies as measured in an RFFI test. Approximately six months after the initial inoculation all monkeys and

15 one additional naive monkey were re-inoculated by the subcutaneous route on the external face of the left thigh with $6.5 \log_{10}$ TCID₅₀ of ALVAC-RG. Sera were analyzed for the presence of anti-rabies antibody. The results are shown in Table 8.

20 Four of the five monkeys naive to rabies developed a serological response by seven days post-inoculation with ALVAC-RG. All five monkeys had detectable antibody by 11 days post-inoculation. Of the four monkeys with previous exposure to the rabies glycoprotein, all showed a

25 significant increase in serum neutralization titer between days 3 and 7 post-vaccination. The results indicate that vaccination of squirrel monkeys with ALVAC-RG does not produce adverse side-effects and a primary neutralizing antibody response can be induced. An

30 anamnestic response is also induced on re-vaccination. Prior exposure to ALVAC or to a canarypox recombinant expressing an unrelated foreign gene does not interfere with induction of an anti-rabies immune response upon re-vaccination.

35 The immunological response of HIV-2 seropositive macaques to inoculation with ALVAC-RG was assessed. Animals were inoculated as described above and the

(STD 0.48). As an extension of this study, male mice were inoculated intracranially with 50 μ l of virus containing $6.0 \log_{10}$ TCID₅₀ of ALVAC-RG or with an equivalent volume of an uninfected cell suspension. Mice 5 were sacrificed on days 1, 3 and 6 post-inoculation and their brains removed, fixed and sectioned. Histopathological examination showed no evidence for neurovirulence of ALVAC-RG in mice.

In order to evaluate the safety and efficacy of 10 ALVAC-RG for dogs and cats, a group of 14, 5 month old beagles and 14, 4 month old cats were analyzed. Four animals in each species were not vaccinated. Five animals received $6.7 \log_{10}$ TCID₅₀ subcutaneously and five animals received $7.7 \log_{10}$ TCID₅₀ by the same route. 15 Animals were bled for analysis for anti-rabies antibody. Animals receiving no inoculation or $6.7 \log_{10}$ TCID₅₀ of ALVAC-RG were challenged at 29 days post-vaccination with $3.7 \log_{10}$ mouse LD₅₀ (dogs, in the temporal muscle) or $4.3 \log_{10}$ mouse LD₅₀ (cats, in the neck) of the NYGS rabies 20 virus challenge strain. The results of the experiment are shown in Table 7.

No adverse reactions to inoculation were seen in either cats or dogs with either dose of inoculum virus. Four of 5 dogs immunized with $6.7 \log_{10}$ TCID₅₀ had 25 antibody titers on day 14 post-vaccination and all dogs had titers at 29 days. All dogs were protected from a challenge which killed three out of four controls. In cats, three of five cats receiving $6.7 \log_{10}$ TCID₅₀ had specific antibody titers on day 14 and all cats were 30 positive on day 29 although the mean antibody titer was low at 2.9 IU. Three of five cats survived a challenge which killed all controls. All cats immunized with $7.7 \log_{10}$ TCID₅₀ had antibody titers on day 14 and at day 29 35 the Geometric Mean Titer was calculated as 8.1 International Units.

The immune response of squirrel monkeys (*Saimiri sciureus*) to inoculation with ALVAC, ALVAC-RG and an

presence of anti-rabies serum neutralizing antibody assessed in an RFFI test. The results, shown in Table 9, indicated that HIV-2 positive animals inoculated by the subcutaneous route developed anti-rabies antibody by 11 days after one inoculation. An anamnestic response was detected after a booster inoculation given approximately three months after the first inoculation. No response was detected in animals receiving the recombinant by the oral route. In addition, a series of six animals were inoculated with decreasing doses of ALVAC-RG given by either the intra-muscular or subcutaneous routes. Five of the six animals inoculated responded by 14 days post-vaccination with no significant difference in antibody titer.

Two chimpanzees with prior exposure to HIV were inoculated with $7.0 \log_{10}$ pfu of ALVAC-RG by the subcutaneous or intra-muscular route. At 3 months post-inoculations both animals were re-vaccinated in an identical fashion. The results are shown in Table 10.

No adverse reactivity to inoculation was noted by either intramuscular or subcutaneous routes. Both chimpanzees responded to primary inoculation by 14 days and a strongly rising response was detected following re-vaccination.

Table 1. Sequential Passage of ALVAC in Avian and non-Avian Cells.

		<u>CEF</u>	<u>Vero</u>	<u>MRC-5</u>
5	Pass 1			
	Sample to ^a	2.4	3.0	2.6
	t7 ^b	7.0	1.4	0.4
	t7A ^c	1.2	1.2	0.4
10	Pass 2			
	Sample to	5.0	0.4	N.D. ^d
	t7	7.3	0.4	N.D.
	t7A	3.9	N.D.	N.D.
	Pass 3			
15	Sample to	5.4	0.4	N.D.
	t7	7.4	N.D.	N.D.
	t7A	3.8	N.D.	N.D.
	Pass 4			
	Sample to	5.2	N.D.	N.D.
20	t7	7.1	N.D.	N.D.
	t7A	3.9	N.D.	N.D.

a: This sample was harvested at zero time and represents the residual input virus. The titer is expressed as \log_{10} pfu per ml.

25 b: This sample was harvested at 7 days post-infection.

c: This sample was inoculated in the presence of 40 μ g/ml of Cytosine arabinoside and harvested at 7 days post infection.

30 d: Not detectable

Table 2. Sequential Passage of ALVAC-RG in Avian and non-Avian Cells

		<u>CEF</u>	<u>Vero</u>	<u>MRC-5</u>
5	Pass 1			
	Sample t0 ^a	3.0	2.9	2.9
	t7 ^b	7.1	1.0	1.4
	t7A ^c	1.8	1.4	1.2
	Pass 2			
10	Sample t0	5.1	0.4	0.4
	t7	7.1	N.D. ^d	N.D.
	t7A	3.8	N.D.	N.D.
	Pass 3			
	Sample t0	5.1	0.4	N.D.
15	t7	7.2	N.D.	N.D.
	t7A	3.6	N.D.	N.D.
	Pass 4			
	Sample t0	5.1	N.D.	N.D.
	t7	7.0	N.D.	N.D.
20	t7A	4.0	N.D.	N.D.

a: This sample was harvested at zero time and represents the residual input virus. The titer is expressed as \log_{10} pfu per ml.

25 b: This sample was harvested at 7 days post-infection.

c: This sample was inoculated in the presence of 40 μ g/ml of Cytosine arabinoside and harvested at 7 days post-infection.

30 d: Not detectable.

Table 3. Amplification of residual virus by passage in CEF cells

		CEF	Vero	MRC-5
5	a) ALVAC			
	Pass 2 ^a	7.0 ^b	6.0	5.2
	3	7.5	4.1	4.9
	4	7.5	N.D. ^c	N.D.
	5	7.1	N.D.	N.D.
10				
	b) ALVAC-RG			
	Pass 2 ^a	7.2	5.5	5.5
	3	7.2	5.0	5.1
	4	7.2	N.D.	N.D.
15	5	7.2	N.D.	N.D.

a: Pass 2 represents the amplification in CEF cells of the 7 day sample from Pass 1.

20 b: Titer expressed as \log_{10} pfu per ml

c: Not Detectable

Table 4. Schedule of inoculation of rhesus macaques with ALVAC-RG (vCP65)

	Animal	Inoculation
5	176L	Primary: 1×10^8 pfu of vCP65 orally in TANG Secondary: 1×10^7 pfu of vCP65 plus 1×10^7 pfu of vCP82 ^a by SC route
10	185 L	Primary: 1×10^8 pfu of vCP65 orally in Tang Secondary: 1×10^7 pfu of vCP65 plus 1×10^7 pfu of vCP82 by SC route
15	177 L	Primary: 5×10^7 pfu SC of vCP65 by SC route Secondary: 1×10^7 pfu of vCP65 plus 1×10^7 pfu of vCP82 by SC route
186L		Primary: 5×10^7 pfu of vCP65 by SC route Secondary: 1×10^7 pfu of vCP65 plus 1×10^7 pfu of vCP82 by SC route
178L		Primary: 1×10^7 pfu of vCP65 by SC route
20	182L	Primary: 1×10^7 pfu of vCP65 by IM route
	179L	Primary: 1×10^6 pfu of vCP65 by SC route
	183L	Primary: 1×10^6 pfu of vCP65 by IM route
	180L	Primary: 1×10^6 pfu of vCP65 by SC route
	184L	Primary: 1×10^5 pfu of vCP65 by IM route
25	187L	Primary 1×10^7 pfu of vCP65 orally

a: vCP82 is a canarypox virus recombinant expressing the measles virus fusion and hemagglutinin genes.

Table 5. Analysis of yield in avian and non-avian cells inoculated with ALVAC-RG

		Sample Time		
	Cell Type	t0	t72	t72A^b
Expt 1				
5	CEF	3.3 ^a	7.4	1.7
	Vero	3.0	1.4	1.7
	MRC-5	3.4	2.0	1.7
Expt 2				
10	CEF	2.9	7.5	<1.7
	WISH	3.3	2.2	2.0
	Detroit-532	2.8	1.7	<1.7

15

a: Titer expressed as \log_{10} pfu per ml

b: Culture incubated in the presence of 40 μ g/ml of Cytosine arabinoside

Table 6. Potency of ALVAC-RG as tested in mice

	Test	Challenge Dose ^a	PD ₅₀ ^b
5	Initial seed	43	4.56
	Primary seed	23	3.34
	Vaccine Batch H	23	4.52
	Vaccine Batch I	23	3.33
	Vaccine Batch K	15	3.64
10	Vaccine Batch L	15	4.03
	Vaccine Batch M	15	3.32
	Vaccine Batch N	15	3.39
	Vaccine Batch J	23	3.42

15 a: Expressed as mouse LD₅₀

b: Expressed as log₁₀ TCID₅₀

Table 7. Efficacy of ALVAC-RG in dogs and cats

	<u>Dogs</u>		<u>Cats</u>		
	Dose	Antibody ^a	Survival ^b	Antibody	Survival
5					
	6.7	11.9	5/5	2.9	3/5
	7.7	10.1	N.T.	8.1	N.T.

a: Antibody at day 29 post inoculation expressed as the geometric mean titer
 10 in International Units.

b: Expressed as a ratio of survivors over animals challenged

5 Table 8. Anti-rabies serological response of Squirrel monkeys
 5 inoculated with canarypox recombinants

Monkey #	Previous Exposure	-196 ^a	Rabies serum-neutralizing antibody ^a					
			0	3	7	11	21	28
10 22	ALVAC ^c	NT ^g	<1.2	<1.2	<1.2	2.1	2.3	2.2
51	ALVAC ^c	NT	<1.2	<1.2	1.7	2.2	2.2	2.2
39	vCP37 ^d	NT	<1.2	<1.2	1.7	2.1	2.2	N.T. ^g
55	vCP37 ^d	NT	<1.2	<1.2	1.7	2.2	2.1	N.T.
37	ALVAC-RG ^e	2.2	<1.2	<1.2	3.2	3.5	3.5	3.2
15 53	ALVAC-RG ^e	2.2	<1.2	<1.2	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.4
38	ALVAC-RG ^f	2.7	<1.7	<1.7	3.2	3.8	3.6	N.T.
54	ALVAC-RG ^f	3.2	<1.7	<1.5	3.6	4.2	4.0	3.6
57	None	NT	<1.2	<1.2	1.7	2.7	2.7	2.3

20 a: As determined by RFFI test on days indicated and expressed in International Units
 b: Day-196 represents serum from day 28 after primary vaccination
 c: Animals received 5.0 log₁₀ TCID₅₀ of ALVAC
 d: Animals received 5.0 log₁₀ TCID₅₀ of vCP37
 e: Animals received 5.0 log₁₀ TCID₅₀ of ALVAC-RG
 f: Animals received 7.0 log₁₀ TCID₅₀ of ALVAC-RG
 g: Not tested.

25

Table 9. Inoculation of rhesus macaques with ALVAC-RG^a

Days post-Inoculation	Route of Primary Inoculation						\log_{10} TCID ₅₀ of VCP37
	OR/Tang	SC 176L ^b	SC 185L	SC 177L	M 186L	M 178L	
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-84	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-9	-	-	-	-	-	-	.0
e:	Animals received 5.0 log						
10	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
6	-	-	-	±	±	-	-
11	-	-	-	16 ^d	128	-	-
19	-	-	-	32	128	-	-
35	-	-	-	32	512	-	-
15	59	-	-	64	256	-	-
75	-	-	-	64	128	-	-
99 ^c	-	-	-	64	256	-	-
2	-	-	-	32	256	-	-
6	-	-	-	512	512	-	-
20	15	16	16	512	64	32	64
29	16	32	256	256	64	32	128
55	-	32	-	-	32	32	32
57	16	128	128	16	-	16	16

^aSee Table 9 for schedule of inoculations.^bAnimals 176L and 185L received 8.0 log₁₀ pfu by the oral route in 5 ml Tang.^cDay of re-vaccination for animals 176L, 185L, 177L and 186L by S.C. route, and primary vaccination for animals 178L, 182L, 179L, 183L, 180L, 184L and 187L.^dTiters expressed as reciprocal of last dilution showing inhibition of fluorescence in an RFFI test.

Table 10. Inoculation of chimpanzees with ALVAC-RG

Weeks post-	Animal 431		Animal 457
	Inoculation	I.M.	S.C.
5			
	0	<8 ^a	<8
	1	<8	<8
	2	8	32
	4	16	32
10	8	16	32
	12 ^b /0	16	8
	13/1	128	128
	15/3	256	512
	20/8	64	128
15	26/12	32	128

a: Titer expressed as reciprocal of last dilution showing inhibition of fluorescence in an RFFI test

20 b: Day of re-inoculation

EXAMPLE 9 - IMMUNIZATION OF HUMANS USING CANARYPOX EXPRESSING RABIES GLYCOPROTEIN (ALVAC-RG; vCP65)

5 ALVAC-RG (vCP65) was generated as described in Example 9 and FIGS. 9A and 9B. For scaling-up and vaccine manufacturing ALVAC-RG (vCP65) was grown in primary CEF derived from specified pathogen free eggs. Cells were infected at a multiplicity of 0.1 and
10 incubated at 37°C for three days.

The vaccine virus suspension was obtained by ultrasonic disruption in serum free medium of the infected cells; cell debris were then removed by centrifugation and filtration. The resulting clarified
15 suspension was supplemented with lyophilization stabilizer (mixture of amino-acids), dispensed in single dose vials and freeze dried. Three batches of decreasing titer were prepared by ten-fold serial dilutions of the virus suspension in a mixture of serum free medium and
20 lyophilization stabilizer, prior to lyophilization.

Quality control tests were applied to the cell substrates, media and virus seeds and final product with emphasis on the search for adventitious agents and inocuity in laboratory rodents. No undesirable trait was
25 found.

Preclinical data. Studies *in vitro* indicated that VERO or MRC-5 cells do not support the growth of ALVAC-RG (vCP65); a series of eight (VERO) and 10 (MRC) blind serial passages caused no detectable adaptation of the
30 virus to grow in these non avian lines. Analyses of human cell lines (MRC-5, WISH, Detroit 532, HEL, HNK or EBV-transformed lymphoblastoid cells) infected or inoculated with ALVAC-RG (vCP65) showed no accumulation of virus specific DNA suggesting that in these cells the
35 block in replication occurs prior to DNA synthesis. Significantly, however, the expression of the rabies virus glycoprotein gene in all cell lines tested indicating that the abortive step in the canarypox replication cycle occurs prior to viral DNA replication.

The safety and efficacy of ALVAC-RG (vCP65) were documented in a series of experiments in animals. A number of species including canaries, chickens, ducks, geese, laboratory rodents (suckling and adult mice), 5 hamsters, guinea-pigs, rabbits, cats and dogs, squirrel monkeys, rhesus macaques and chimpanzees, were inoculated with doses ranging from 10^5 to 10^8 pfu. A variety of routes were used, most commonly subcutaneous, intramuscular and intradermal but also oral (monkeys and 10 mice) and intracerebral (mice).

In canaries, ALVAC-RG (vCP65) caused a "take" lesion at the site of scarification with no indication of disease or death. Intradermal inoculation of rabbits resulted in a typical poxvirus inoculation reaction which 15 did not spread and healed in seven to ten days. There was no adverse side effects due to canarypox in any of the animal tests. Immunogenicity was documented by the development of anti-rabies antibodies following inoculation of ALVAC-RG (vCP65) in rodents, dogs, cats, 20 and primates, as measured by Rapid Fluorescent Focus Inhibition Test (RFFIT). Protection was also demonstrated by rabies virus challenge experiments in mice, dogs, and cats immunized with ALVAC-RG (vCP65).

Volunteers. Twenty-five healthy adults aged 20-45 25 with no previous history of rabies immunization were enrolled. Their health status was assessed by complete medical histories, physical examinations, hematological and blood chemistry analyses. Exclusion criteria included pregnancy, allergies, immune depression of any 30 kind, chronic debilitating disease, cancer, injection of immune globins in the past three months, and seropositivity to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or to hepatitis B virus surface antigen.

Study design. Participants were randomly allocated 35 to receive either standard Human Diploid Cell Rabies Vaccine (HDC) batch no E0751 (Pasteur Mérieux Serums &

Vaccine, Lyon, France) or the study vaccine ALVAC-RG (vCP65).

The trial was designated as a dose escalation study. Three batches of experimental ALVAC-RG (vCP65) vaccine were used sequentially in three groups of volunteers (Groups A, B and C) with two week intervals between each step. The concentration of the three batches was $10^{3.5}$, $10^{4.5}$, $10^{5.5}$ Tissue Culture Infectious Dose (TCID₅₀) per dose, respectively.

Each volunteer received two doses of the same vaccine subcutaneously in the deltoid region at an interval of four weeks. The nature of the injected vaccine was not known by the participants at the time of the first injection but was known by the investigator.

In order to minimize the risk of immediate hypersensitivity at the time of the second injection, the volunteers of Group B allocated to the medium dose of experimental vaccine were injected 1 h previously with the lower dose and those allocated to the higher dose (Group C) received successively the lower and the medium dose at hourly intervals.

Six months later, the recipients of the highest dosage of ALVAC-RG (vCP65) (Group C) and HDC vaccine were offered a third dose of vaccine; they were then randomized to receive either the same vaccine as previously or the alternate vaccine. As a result, four groups were formed corresponding to the following immunization scheme: 1. HDC, HDC - HDC; 2. HDC, HDC - ALVAC-RG (vCP65); 3. ALVAC-RG (vCP65), ALVAC-RG (vCP65) - HDC; 4. ALVAC-RG (vCP65), ALVAC-RG (vCP65), ALVAC-RG (vCP65).

Monitoring of Side Effects. All subjects were monitored for 1 h after injection and re-examined every day for the next five days. They were asked to record local and systemic reactions for the next three weeks and were questioned by telephone two times a week.

Laboratory Investigators. Blood specimens were obtained before enrollment and two, four and six days after each injection. Analysis included complete blood cell count, liver enzymes and creatine kinase assays.

5 Antibody assays. Antibody assays were performed seven days prior to the first injection and at days 7, 28, 35, 56, 173, 187 and 208 of the study.

The levels of neutralizing antibodies to rabies were determined using the Rapid Fluorescent Focus Inhibition 10 test (RFFIT) (Smith et al., 1973). Canarypox antibodies were measured by direct ELISA. The antigen, a suspension of purified canarypox virus disrupted with 0.1% Triton X100, was coated in microplates. Fixed dilutions of the sera were reacted for two hours at room temperature and reacting antibodies were revealed with a peroxidase 15 labelled anti-human IgG goat serum. The results are expressed as the optical density read at 490nm.

Analysis. Twenty-five subjects were enrolled and completed the study. There were 10 males and 15 females 20 and the mean age was 31.9 (21 to 48). All but three subjects had evidence of previous smallpox vaccination; the three remaining subjects had no typical scar and vaccination history. Three subjects received each of the lower doses of experimental vaccine ($10^{3.5}$ and $10^{4.5}$ 25 TCID₅₀), nine subjects received $10^{5.5}$ TCID₅₀ and ten received the HDC vaccine.

Safety (Table 11). During the primary series of immunization, fever greater than 37.7°C was noted within 24 hours after injection in one HDC recipient (37.8°C) 30 and in one vCP65 $10^{5.5}$ TCID₅₀ recipient (38°C). No other systemic reaction attributable to vaccination was observed in any participant.

Local reactions were noted in 9/10 recipients of HDC vaccine injected subcutaneously and in 0/3, 1/3 and 9/9 35 recipients of vCP65 $10^{3.5}$, $10^{4.5}$, $10^{5.5}$ TCID₅₀, respectively.

Tenderness was the most common symptoms and was always mild. Other local symptoms included redness and induration which were also mild and transient. All symptoms usually subsided within 24 hours and never 5 lasted more than 72 hours.

There was no significant change in blood cell counts, liver enzymes or creatine kinase values.

Immune Responses: Neutralizing Antibodies to Rabies (Table 12). Twenty eight days after the first injection 10 all the HDC recipients had protective titers (≥ 0.5 IU/ml). By contrast none in groups A and B ($10^{3.5}$ and $10^{4.5}$ TCID₅₀) and only 2/9 in group C ($10^{5.5}$ TCID₅₀) ALVAC-RG (vCP65) recipients reached this protective titer.

At day 56 (i.e. 28 days after the second injection) 15 protective titers were achieved in 0/3 of Group A, 2/3 of Group B and 9/9 of Group C recipients of ALVAC-RG (vCP65) vaccine and persisted in all 10 HDC recipients.

At day 56 the geometric mean titers were 0.05, 0.47, 4.4 and 11.5 IU/ml in groups A, B, C and HDC 20 respectively.

At day 180, the rabies antibody titers had substantially decreased in all subjects but remained above the minimum protective titer of 0.5 IU/ml in 5/10 HCD recipients and in 5/9 ALVAC-RG (vCP65) recipients; 25 the geometric mean titers were 0.51 and 0.45 IU/ml in groups HCD and C, respectively.

Antibodies to the Canarypox virus (Table 13). The pre-immune titers observed varied widely with titers varying from 0.22 to 1.23 O.D. units despite the absence 30 of any previous contact with canary birds in those subjects with the highest titers. When defined as a greater than two-fold increase between preimmunization and post second injection titers, a seroconversion was obtained in 1/3 subjects in group B and in 9/9 subjects 35 in group C whereas no subject seroconverted in groups A or HDC.

Booster Injection. The vaccine was similarly well tolerated six months later, at the time of the booster injection: fever was noted in 2/9 HDC booster recipients and in 1/10 ALVAC-RG (vCP65) booster recipients. Local reactions were present in 5/9 recipients of HDC booster and in 6/10 recipients of the ALVAC-RG (vCP65) booster.

Observations. Figs. 11A-11D show graphs of rabies neutralizing antibody titers (Rapid Fluorescent Focus Inhibition Test or RFFIT, IU/ml): Booster effect of HDC and vCP65 ($10^{5.5}$ TCID₅₀) in volunteers previously immunized with either the same or the alternate vaccine. Vaccines were given at days 0, 28 and 180. Antibody titers were measured at days 0, 7, 28, 35, 56, 173, and 187 and 208.

As shown in FIGS. 11A to 11D, the booster dose given resulted in a further increase in rabies antibody titers in every subject whatever the immunization scheme. However, the ALVAC-RG (vCP65) booster globally elicited lower immune responses than the HDC booster and the ALVAC-RG (vCP65), ALVAC-RG (vCP65) - ALVAC-RG (vCP65) group had significantly lower titers than the three other groups. Similarly, the ALVAC-RG (vCP65) booster injection resulted in an increase in canarypox antibody titers in 3/5 subjects who had previously received the HDC vaccine and in all five subjects previously immunized with ALVAC-RG (vCP65).

In general, none of the local side effects from administration of vCP65 was indicative of a local replication of the virus. In particular, lesions of the skin such as those observed after injection of vaccine were absent. In spite of the apparent absence of replication of the virus, the injection resulted in the volunteers generating significant amounts of antibodies to both the canarypox vector and to the expressed rabies glycoprotein.

Rabies neutralizing antibodies were assayed with the Rapid Fluorescent Focus Inhibition Test (RFFIT) which is

known to correlate well with the sero neutralization test in mice. Of 9 recipients of $10^{5.5}$ TCID₅₀, five had low level responses after the first dose. Protective titers of rabies antibodies were obtained after the second
5 injection in all recipients of the highest dose tested and even in 2 of the 3 recipients of the medium dose. In this study, both vaccines were given subcutaneously as usually recommended for live vaccines, but not for the inactivated HDC vaccine. This route of injection was
10 selected as it best allowed a careful examination of the injection site, but this could explain the late appearance of antibodies in HDC recipients: indeed, none of the HDC recipients had an antibody increase at day 7, whereas, in most studies where HDC vaccine is give
15 intramuscularly a significant proportion of subjects do (Klietmann et al., Int'l Green Cross - Geneva, 1981; Kuwert et al., Int'l Green Cross - Geneva, 1981). However, this invention is not necessarily limited to the subcutaneous route of administration.

20 The GMT (geometric mean titers) of rabies neutralizing antibodies was lower with the investigational vaccine than with the HDC control vaccine, but still well above the minimum titer required for protection. The clear dose effect response obtained
25 with the three dosages used in this study suggest that a higher dosage might induce a stronger response. Certainly from this disclosure the skilled artisan can select an appropriate dosage for a given patient.

The ability to boost the antibody response is
30 another important result of this Example; indeed, an increase in rabies antibody titers was obtained in every subject after the 6 month dose whatever the immunization scheme, showing that preexisting immunity elicited by either the canarypox vector or the rabies glycoprotein
35 had no blocking effect on the booster with the recombinant vaccine candidate or the conventional HDC rabies vaccine. This contrasts findings of others with

vaccinia recombinants in humans that immune response may be blocked by pre-existing immunity (Cooney et al.; Ettinger et al.).

Thus, this Example clearly demonstrates that a non-replicating poxvirus can serve as an immunizing vector in humans, with all of the advantages that replicating agents confer on the immune response, but without the safety problem created by a fully permissive virus. And, from this disclosure such as this Example and other Examples suitable dosages and modes or routes for administration or immunization of recombinants containing either rabies or other coding, or expression products thereof, are within the ambit of the skilled artisan as well modes for in vitro expression.

15 TABLE 11: Reactions in the 5 days following vaccination

vCP65 dosage (TCID50)	$10^{3.5}$		$10^{4.5}$		$10^{5.5}$		H D C control	
Injection	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd	1st	2nd
No. vaccinees	3	3	3	3	9	9	10	10
temp >37.7°C	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
soreness	0	0	1	1	6	8	8	6
redness	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	4
induration	0	0	0	0	0	4	5	4

TABLE 12: Rabies neutralizing antibodies (REFIT; IU/ml) Individual titers and geometric mean titers (GMT)

	No.	TCID50/ dose	Days			
			0	7	28	35
5	1	$10^{3.5}$	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
	3	$10^{3.5}$	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
	4	$10^{3.5}$	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
		G.M.T.	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
10	6	$10^{4.5}$	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1
	7	$10^{4.5}$	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	2.4
	10	$10^{4.5}$	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	1.6
		G.M.T.	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.1	0.58
						0.47
15	11	$10^{5.5}$	< 0.1	< 0.1	1.0	3.2
	13	$10^{5.5}$	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.3	6.0
	14	$10^{5.5}$	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.2	2.1
	17	$10^{5.5}$	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	1.2
	18	$10^{5.5}$	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.7	8.3
20	20	$10^{5.5}$	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.3
	21	$10^{5.5}$	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.2	2.6
	23	$10^{5.5}$	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	1.7
	25	$10^{5.5}$	< 0.1	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.6
		G.M.T.	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.16	1.9
25	2	HDC	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.8	7.1
	5	HDC	< 0.1	< 0.1	9.9	12.8
	8	HDC	< 0.1	< 0.1	12.7	21.1
	9	HDC	< 0.1	< 0.1	6.0	9.9
	12	HDC	< 0.1	< 0.1	5.0	9.2
30	15	HDC	< 0.1	< 0.1	2.2	5.2
	16	HDC	< 0.1	< 0.1	2.7	7.7
	19	HDC	< 0.1	< 0.1	2.6	9.9
	22	HDC	< 0.1	< 0.1	1.4	8.6
	24	HDC	< 0.1	< 0.1	0.8	5.8
35		G.M.T.	< 0.1	< 0.1	2.96	9.0
						11.5*

* p = 0.007 student t test

TABLE 13: Canarypox antibodies: ELISA Geometric Mean Titers*

vCP65 dosage TCID50/dose	Days				
	0	7	28	35	56
10 ^{3.5}	0.69	ND	0.76	ND	0.68
10 ^{4.5}	0.49	0.45	0.56	0.63	0.87
10 ^{5.5}	0.38	0.38	0.77	1.42	1.63
HDC control	0.45	0.39	0.40	0.35	0.39

* optical density at 1/25 dilution

EXAMPLE 10 - COMPARISON OF THE LD₅₀ OF ALVAC AND NYVAC WITH VARIOUS VACCINIA VIRUS STRAINS

Mice. Male outbred Swiss Webster mice were
5 purchased from Taconic Farms (Germantown, NY) and maintained on mouse chow and water *ad libitum* until use at 3 weeks of age ("normal" mice). Newborn outbred Swiss Webster mice were of both sexes and were obtained following timed pregnancies performed by Taconic Farms.
10 All newborn mice used were delivered within a two day period.

Viruses. ALVAC was derived by plaque purification of a canarypox virus population and was prepared in primary chick embryo fibroblast cells (CEF). Following 15 purification by centrifugation over sucrose density gradients, ALVAC was enumerated for plaque forming units in CEF cells. The WR(L) variant of vaccinia virus was derived by selection of large plaque phenotypes of WR (Panicali et al., 1981). The Wyeth New York State Board 20 of Health vaccine strain of vaccinia virus was obtained from Pharmaceuticals Calf Lymph Type vaccine Dryvax, control number 302001B. Copenhagen strain vaccinia virus VC-2 was obtained from Institut Merieux, France. Vaccinia virus strain NYVAC was derived from Copenhagen 25 VC-2. All vaccinia virus strains except the Wyeth strain were cultivated in Vero African green monkey kidney cells, purified by sucrose gradient density centrifugation and enumerated for plaque forming units on Vero cells. The Wyeth strain was grown in CEF cells and 30 enumerated for plaque forming units in CEF cells.

Inoculations. Groups of 10 normal mice were inoculated intracranially (ic) with 0.05 ml of one of several dilutions of virus prepared by 10-fold serially diluting the stock preparations in sterile phosphate-buffered saline. In some instances, undiluted stock 35 virus preparation was used for inoculation.

Groups of 10 newborn mice, 1 to 2 days old, were inoculated ic similarly to the normal mice except that an injection volume of 0.03 ml was used.

All mice were observed daily for mortality for a 5 period of 14 days (newborn mice) or 21 days (normal mice) after inoculation. Mice found dead the morning following inoculation were excluded due to potential death by trauma.

The lethal dose required to produce mortality for 10 50% of the experimental population (LD_{50}) was determined by the proportional method of Reed and Muench.

Comparison of the LD_{50} of ALVAC and NYVAC with Various Vaccinia Virus Strains for Normal, Young Outbred Mice by the ic Route. In young, normal mice, the 15 virulence of NYVAC and ALVAC were several orders of magnitude lower than the other vaccinia virus strains tested (Table 14). NYVAC and ALVAC were found to be over 3,000 times less virulent in normal mice than the Wyeth strain; over 12,500 times less virulent than the parental 20 VC-2 strain; and over 63,000,000 times less virulent than the WR(L) variant. These results would suggest that NYVAC is highly attenuated compared to other vaccinia strains, and that ALVAC is generally nonvirulent for young mice when administered intracranially, although 25 both may cause mortality in mice at extremely high doses (3.85×10^8 PFUs, ALVAC and 3×10^8 PFUs, NYVAC) by an undetermined mechanism by this route of inoculation.

Comparison of the LD_{50} of ALVAC and NYVAC with Various Vaccinia Virus Strains for Newborn Outbred Mice by the ic Route. The relative virulence of 5 poxvirus 30 strains for normal, newborn mice was tested by titration in an intracranial (ic) challenge model system (Table 15). With mortality as the endpoint, LD_{50} values indicated that ALVAC is over 100,000 times less virulent 35 than the Wyeth vaccine strain of vaccinia virus; over 200,000 times less virulent than the Copenhagen VC-2 strain of vaccinia virus; and over 25,000,000 times less

virulent than the WR-L variant of vaccinia virus. Nonetheless, at the highest dose tested, 6.3×10^7 PFUs, 100% mortality resulted. Mortality rates of 33.3% were observed at 6.3×10^6 PFUs. The cause of death, while not 5 actually determined, was not likely of toxicological or traumatic nature since the mean survival time (MST) of mice of the highest dosage group (approximately 6.3 LD_{50}) was 6.7 ± 1.5 days. When compared to WR(L) at a challenge dose of 5 LD_{50} , wherein MST is 4.8 ± 0.6 days, 10 the MST of ALVAC challenged mice was significantly longer ($P=0.001$).

Relative to NYVAC, Wyeth was found to be over 15,000 times more virulent; VC-2, greater than 35,000 times more virulent; and WR(L), over 3,000,000 times more virulent. 15 Similar to ALVAC, the two highest doses of NYVAC, 6×10^8 and 6×10^7 PFUs, caused 100% mortality. However, the MST of mice challenged with the highest dose, corresponding to 380 LD_{50} , was only 2 days (9 deaths on day 2 and 1 on day 4). In contrast, all mice challenged with the 20 highest dose of WR-L, equivalent to 500 LD_{50} , survived to day 4.

5
Table 14. Calculated 50% Lethal Dose for mice by various vaccinia virus strains and for canarypox virus (ALVAC) by the ic route.

	POXVIRUS STRAIN	CALCULATED LD ₅₀ (PFUs)
10	WR(L)	2.5
15	VC-2	1.26x10 ⁴
	WYETH	5.00x10 ⁴
	NYVAC	1.58x10 ⁸
20	ALVAC	1.58x10 ⁸

25
30
Table 15. Calculated 50% Lethal Dose for newborn mice by various vaccinia virus strains and for canarypox virus (ALVAC) by the ic route.

	POXVIRUS STRAIN	CALCULATED LD ₅₀ (PFUs)
35	WR(L)	0.4
40	VC-2	0.1
	WYETH	1.6
	NYVAC	1.58x10 ⁶
45	ALVAC	1.00x10 ⁷

EXAMPLE 11 - EVALUATION OF NYVAC (vP866)
AND NYVAC-RG (vP879)

Immunoprecipitations. Preformed monolayers of avian or non-avian cells were inoculated with 10 pfu per cell of parental NYVAC (vP866) or NYVAC-RG (vP879) virus. The inoculation was performed in EMEM free of methionine and supplemented with 2% dialyzed fetal bovine serum. After a one hour incubation, the inoculum was removed and the medium replaced with EMEM (methionine free) containing 20 μ Ci/ml of 35 S-methionine. After an overnight incubation of approximately 16 hours, cells were lysed by the addition of Buffer A (1% Nonidet P-40, 10 mM Tris pH7.4, 150 mM NaCl, 1 mM EDTA, 0.01% sodium azide, 500 units per ml of aprotinin, and 0.02% phenyl methyl sulfonyl fluoride). Immunoprecipitation was performed using a rabies glycoprotein specific monoclonal antibody designated 24-3F10 supplied by Dr. C. Trinarchi, Griffith Laboratories, New York State Department of Health, Albany, New York, and a rat anti-mouse conjugate obtained from Boehringer Mannheim Corporation (Cat. #605-500). Protein A Sepharose CL-4B obtained from Pharmacia LKB Biotechnology Inc., Piscataway, New Jersey, was used as a support matrix. Immunoprecipitates were fractionated on 10% polyacrylamide gels according to the method of Dreyfuss et. al. (1984). Gels were fixed, treated for fluorography with 1M Na-salicylate for one hour, and exposed to Kodak XAR-2 film to visualize the immunoprecipitated protein species.

Sources of Animals. New Zealand White rabbits were obtained from Hare-Marland (Hewitt, New Jersey). Three week old male Swiss Webster outbred mice, timed pregnant female Swiss Webster outbred mice, and four week old Swiss Webster nude (nu^+nu^+) mice were obtained from Taconic Farms, Inc. (Germantown, New York). All animals were maintained according to NIH guidelines. All animal protocols were approved by the institutional IACUC. When

deemed necessary, mice which were obviously terminally ill were euthanized.

Evaluation of Lesions in Rabbits. Each of two rabbits was inoculated intradermally at multiple sites 5 with 0.1 ml of PBS containing 10^4 , 10^5 , 10^6 , 10^7 , or 10^8 pfu of each test virus or with PBS alone. The rabbits were observed daily from day 4 until lesion resolution. Indurations and ulcerations were measured and recorded.

Virus Recovery from Inoculation Sites. A single 10 rabbit was inoculated intradermally at multiple sites of 0/1 ml of PBS containing 10^6 , 10^7 , or 10^8 pfu of each test virus or with PBS alone. After 11 days, the rabbit was euthanized and skin biopsy specimens taken from each of the inoculation sites were aseptically prepared by 15 mechanical disruption and indirect sonication for virus recovery. Infectious virus was assayed by plaque titration on CEF monolayers.

Virulence in Mice. Groups of ten mice, or five in the nude mice experiment, were inoculated ip with one of 20 several dilutions of virus in 0.5 ml of sterile PBS. Reference is also made to Example 11.

Cyclophosphamide (CY) Treatment. Mice were injected by the ip route with 4 mg (0.02 ml) of CY (SIGMA) on day -2, followed by virus injection on day 0. On the 25 following days post infection, mice were injected ip with CY: 4 mg on day 1; 2 mg on days 4, 7 and 11; 3 mg on days 14, 18, 21, 25 and 28. Immunosuppression was indirectly monitored by enumerating white blood cells with a Coulter Counter on day 11. The average white blood cell count 30 was 13,500 cells per μ l for untreated mice (n=4) and 4,220 cells per μ l for CY-treated control mice (n=5).

Calculation of LD₅₀. The lethal dose required to produce 50% mortality (LD₅₀) was determined by the proportional method of Reed and Muench (Reed and Muench 35 1938).

Potency Testing of NYVAC-RG in Mice. Four to six week old mice were inoculated in the footpad with 50 to

100 μ l of a range of dilutions (2.0 - 8.0 \log_{10} tissue culture infective dose 50% (TCID₅₀)) of either VV-RG (Kieny et al., 1984), ALVAC-RG (Taylor et al., 1991b), or the NYVAC-RG. Each group consisted of eight mice. At 14 days post-vaccination, the mice were challenged by intracranial inoculation with 15 LD₅₀ of the rabies virus CVS strain (0.03 ml). On day 28, surviving mice were counted and protective does 50% (PD₅₀) calculated.

Derivation of NYVAC (vP866). The NYVAC strain of vaccinia virus was generated from VC-2, a plaque cloned isolate of the COPENHAGEN vaccine strain. To generate NYVAC from VC-2, eighteen vaccinia ORFs, including a number of viral functions associated with virulence, were precisely deleted in a series of sequential manipulations as described earlier in this disclosure. These deletions were constructed in a manner designed to prevent the appearance of novel unwanted open reading frames. FIG. 10 schematically depicts the ORFs deleted to generate NYVAC. At the top of FIG. 10 is depicted the HindIII restriction map of the vaccinia virus genome (VC-2 plaque isolate, COPENHAGEN strain). Expanded are the six regions of VC-2 that were sequentially deleted in the generation of NYVAC. The deletions were described earlier in this disclosure (Examples 1 through 6). Below such deletion locus is listed the ORFs which were deleted from that locus, along with the functions or homologies and molecular weight of their gene products.

Replication Studies of NYVAC and ALVAC on Human Tissue Cell Lines. In order to determine the level of replication of NYVAC strain of vaccinia virus (vP866) in cells of human origin, six cell lines were inoculated at an input multiplicity of 0.1 pfu per cell under liquid culture and incubated for 72 hours. The COPENHAGEN parental clone (VC-2) was inoculated in parallel. Primary chick embryo fibroblast (CEF) cells (obtained from 10-11 day old embryonated eggs of SPF origin, Spafas, Inc., Storrs, CT) were included to represent a

permissive cell substrate for all viruses. Cultures were analyzed on the basis of two criteria: the occurrence of productive viral replication and expression of an extrinsic antigen.

5 The replication potential of NYVAC in a number of human derived cells are shown in Table 16. Both VC-2 and NYVAC are capable of productive replication in CEF cells, although NYVAC with slightly reduced yields. VC-2 is also capable of productive replication in the six human
10 derived cell lines tested with comparable yields except in the EBV transformed lymphoblastoid cell line JT-1 (human lymphoblastoid cell line transformed with Epstein-Barr virus, see Rickinson et al., 1984). In contrast, NYVAC is highly attenuated in its ability to productively
15 replicate in any of the human derived cell lines tested. Small increases of infectious virus above residual virus levels were obtained from NYVAC-infected MRC-5 (ATCC #CCL171, human embryonic lung origin), DETROIT 532 (ATCC #CCL54, human foreskin, Downs Syndrome), HEL 299 (ATCC
20 #CCL137, human embryonic lung cells) and HNK (human neonatal kidney cells, Whittaker Bioproducts, Inc. Walkersville, MD, Cat #70-151) cells. Replication on these cell lines was significantly reduced when compared to virus yields obtained from NYVAC-infected CEF cells or
25 with parental VC-2 (Table 16). It should be noted that the yields at 24 hours in CEF cells for both NYVAC and VC-2 is equivalent to the 72-hour yield. Allowing the human cell line cultures to incubate an additional 48 hours (another two viral growth cycles) may, therefore,
30 have amplified the relative virus yield obtained.

Consistent with the low levels of virus yields obtained in the human-derived cell lines, MRC-5 and DETROIT 532, detectable but reduced levels of NYVAC-specific DNA accumulation were noted. The level of DNA
35 accumulation in the MRC-5 and DETROIT 532 NYVAC-infected cell lines relative to that observed in NYVAC-infected CEF cells paralleled the relative virus yields. NYVAC-

specific viral DNA accumulation was not observed in any of the other human-derived cells.

An equivalent experiment was also performed using the avipox virus, ALVAC. The results of virus replication are also shown in Table 16. No progeny virus was detectable in any of the human cell lines consistent with the host range restriction of canarypox virus to avian species. Also consistent with a lack of productive replication of ALVAC in these human-derived cells is the observation that no ALVAC-specific DNA accumulation was detectable in any of the human-derived cell lines.

Expression of Rabies Glycoprotein by NYVAC-RG (vP879) in Human Cells. In order to determine whether efficient expression of a foreign gene could be obtained in the absence of significant levels of productive viral replication, the same cell lines were inoculated with the NYVAC recombinant expressing the rabies virus glycoprotein (vP879, Example 7) in the presence of ³⁵S-methionine. Immunoprecipitation of the rabies glycoprotein was performed from the radiolabelled culture lysate using a monoclonal antibody specific for the rabies glycoprotein. Immunoprecipitation of a 67kDa protein was detected consistent with a fully glycosylated form of the rabies glycoprotein. No serologically crossreactive product was detected in uninfected or parental NYVAC infected cell lysates. Equivalent results were obtained with all other human cells analyzed.

Inoculations on the Rabbit Skin. The induction and nature of skin lesions on rabbits following intradermal (id) inoculations has been previously used as a measure of pathogenicity of vaccinia virus strains (Buller et al., 1988; Child et al., 1990; Fenner, 1958, Flexner et al., 1987; Ghendon and Chernos 1964). Therefore, the nature of lesions associated with id inoculations with the vaccinia strains WR (ATCC #VR119 plaque purified on CV-1 cells, ATCC #CCL70, and a plaque isolate designated L variant, ATCC #VR2035 selected, as described in

Panicali et al., 1981)), WYETH (ATCC #VR325 marketed as DRYVAC by Wyeth Laboratories, Marietta, PA), COPENHAGEN (VC-2), and NYVAC was evaluated by inoculation of two rabbits (A069 and A128). The two rabbits displayed 5 different overall sensitivities to the viruses, with rabbit A128 displaying less severe reactions than rabbit A069. In rabbit A128, lesions were relatively small and resolved by 27 days post-inoculation. On rabbit A069, lesions were intense, especially for the WR inoculation 10 sites, and resolved only after 49 days. Intensity of the lesions was also dependent on the location of the inoculation sites relative to the lymph drainage network. In particular, all sites located above the backspine displayed more intense lesions and required longer times 15 to resolve the lesions located on the flanks. All lesions were measured daily from day 4 to the disappearance of the last lesion, and the means of maximum lesion size and days to resolution were calculated (Table 17). No local reactions were observed 20 from sites injected with the control PBS. Ulcerative lesions were observed at sites injected with WR, VC-2 and WYETH vaccinia virus strains. Significantly, no induration or ulcerative lesions were observed at sites 25 of inoculation with NYVAC.

25 Persistence of Infectious Virus at the Site of Inoculation. To assess the relative persistence of these viruses at the site of inoculation, a rabbit was inoculated intradermally at multiple sites with 0.1 ml PBS containing 10^6 , 10^7 or 10^8 pfu of VC-2, WR, WYETH or 30 NYVAC. For each virus, the 10^7 pfu dose was located above the backspine, flanked by the 10^6 and 10^8 doses. Sites of inoculation were observed daily for 11 days. WR elicited the most intense response, followed by VC-2 and WYETH 35 (Table 18). Ulceration was first observed at day 9 for WR and WYETH and day 10 for VC-2. Sites inoculated with NYVAC or control PBS displayed no induration or ulceration. At day 11 after inoculation, skin samples

from the sites of inoculation were excised, mechanically disrupted, and virus was titrated on CEF cells. The results are shown in Table 18. In no case was more virus recovered at this timepoint than was administered.

5 Recovery of vaccinia strain, WR, was approximately 10^6 pfu of virus at each site irrespective of amount of virus administered. Recovery of vaccinia strains WYETH and VC-2 was 10^3 to 10^4 pfu regardless of amount administered. No infectious virus was recovered from sites inoculated
10 with NYVAC.

Inoculation of Genetically or Chemically Immune Deficient Mice. Intraperitoneal inoculation of high doses of NYVAC (5×10^8 pfu) or ALVAC (10^9 pfu) into nude mice caused no deaths, no lesions, and no apparent
15 disease through the 100 day observation period. In contrast, mice inoculated with WR (10^3 to 10^4 pfu), WYETH (5×10^7 or 5×10^8 pfu) or VC-2 (10^4 to 10^9 pfu)
displayed disseminated lesions typical of poxviruses
20 first on the toes, then on the tail, followed by severe orchitis in some animals. In mice infected with WR or WYETH, the appearance of disseminated lesions generally led to eventual death, whereas most mice infected with VC-2 eventually recovered. Calculated LD₅₀ values are given in Table 19.

25 In particular, mice inoculated with VC-2 began to display lesions on their toes (red papules) and 1 to 2 days later on the tail. These lesions occurred between 11 and 13 days post-inoculation (pi) in mice given the highest doses (10^9 , 10^8 , 10^7 and 10^6 pfu), on day 16 pi in
30 mice given 10^5 pfu and on day 21 pi in mice given 10^4 pfu. No lesions were observed in mice inoculated with 10^3 and 10^2 pfu during the 100 day observation period. Orchitis was noticed on day 23 pi in mice given 10^9 and 10^8 pfu,
35 and approximately 7 days later in the other groups (10^7 to 10^4 pfu). Orchitis was especially intense in the 10^9 and 10^8 pfu groups and, although receding, was observed until the end of the 100 day observation period. Some

pox-like lesions were noticed on the skin of a few mice, occurring around 30-35 days pi. Most pox lesions healed normally between 60-90 days pi. Only one mouse died in the group inoculated with 10^9 pfu (Day 34 pi) and one 5 mouse died in the group inoculated with 10^8 pfu (Day 94 pi). No other deaths were observed in the VC-2 inoculated mice.

Mice inoculated with 10^4 pfu of the WR strain of vaccinia started to display pox lesions on Day 17 pi. 10 These lesions appeared identical to the lesions displayed by the VC-2 injected mice (swollen toes, tail). Mice inoculated with 10^3 pfu of the WR strain did not develop lesions until 34 days pi. Orchitis was noticed only in the mice inoculated with the highest dose of WR (10^4 15 pfu). During the latter stages of the observation period, lesions appeared around the mouth and the mice stopped eating. All mice inoculated with 10^4 pfu of WR died or were euthanized when deemed necessary between 21 days and 31 days pi. Four out of the 5 mice injected 20 with 10^3 pfu of WR died or were euthanized when deemed necessary between 35 days and 57 days pi. No deaths were observed in mice inoculated with lower doses of WR (1 to 100 pfu).

Mice inoculated with the WYETH strain of vaccinia 25 virus at higher doses (5×10^7 and 5×10^8 pfu) showed lesions on toes and tails, developed orchitis, and died. Mice injected with 5×10^6 pfu or less of WYETH showed no signs of disease or lesions.

As shown in Table 19, CY-treated mice provided a 30 more sensitive model for assaying poxvirus virulence than did nude mice. LD₅₀ values for the WR, WYETH, and VC-2 vaccinia virus strains were significantly lower in this model system than in the nude mouse model. Additionally, 35 lesions developed in mice injected with WYETH, WR and VC-2 vaccinia viruses, as noted below, with higher doses of each virus resulting in more rapid formation of lesions. As was seen with nude mice, CY-treated mice injected with

NYVAC or ALVAC did not develop lesions. However, unlike nude mice, some deaths were observed in CY-treated mice challenged with NYVAC or ALVAC, regardless of the dose. These random incidences are suspect as to the cause of
5 death.

Mice injected with all doses of WYETH (9.5×10^4 to 9.5×10^8 pfu) displayed pox lesions on their tail and/or on their toes between 7 and 15 days pi. In addition, the tails and toes were swollen. Evolution of lesions on the
10 tail was typical of pox lesions with formation of a papule, ulceration and finally formation of a scab. Mice inoculated with all doses of VC-2 (1.65×10^5 to 1.65×10^9) also developed pox lesions on their tails and/or their toes analogous to those of WYETH injected mice.
15 These lesions were observed between 7-12 days post inoculation. No lesions were observed on mice injected with lower doses of WR virus, although deaths occurred in these groups.

Potency Testing of NYVAC-RG. In order to determine
20 that attenuation of the COPENHAGEN strain of vaccinia virus had been effected without significantly altering the ability of the resulting NYVAC strain to be a useful vector, comparative potency tests were performed. In order to monitor the immunogenic potential of the vector
25 during the sequential genetic manipulations performed to attenuate the virus, a rabiesvirus glycoprotein was used as a reporter extrinsic antigen. The protective efficacy of the vectors expressing the rabies glycoprotein gene was evaluated in the standard NIH mouse potency test for
30 rabies (Seligmann, 1973). Table 20 demonstrates that the PD₅₀ values obtained with the highly attenuated NYVAC vector are identical to those obtained using a COPENHAGEN-based recombinant containing the rabies glycoprotein gene in the tk locus (Kieny et al., 1984)
35 and similar to PD₅₀ values obtained with ALVAC-RG, a canarypox based vector restricted to replication to avian species.

Observations. NYVAC, deleted of known virulence genes and having restricted in vitro growth characteristics, was analyzed in animal model systems to assess its attenuation characteristics. These studies 5 were performed in comparison with the neurovirulent vaccinia virus laboratory strain, WR, two vaccinia virus vaccine strains, WYETH (New York City Board of Health) and COPENHAGEN (VC-2), as well as with a canarypox virus strain, ALVAC (See also Example 11). Together, these 10 viruses provided a spectrum of relative pathogenic potentials in the mouse challenge model and the rabbit skin model, with WR being the most virulent strain, WYETH and COPENHAGEN (VC-2) providing previously utilized attenuated vaccine strains with documented 15 characteristics, and ALVAC providing an example of a poxvirus whose replication is restricted to avian species. Results from these *in vivo* analyses clearly demonstrate the highly attenuated properties of NYVAC relative to the vaccinia virus strains, WR, WYETH and 20 COPENHAGEN (VC-2) (Tables 14-20). Significantly, the LD₅₀ values for NYVAC were comparable to those observed with the avian host restricted avipoxvirus, ALVAC. Deaths due to NYVAC, as well as ALVAC, were observed only when 25 extremely high doses of virus were administered via the intracranial route (Example 11, Tables 14, 15, 19). It has not yet been established whether these deaths were due to nonspecific consequences of inoculation of a high protein mass. Results from analyses in immunocompromised mouse models (nude and CY-treated) also demonstrate the 30 relatively high attenuation characteristics of NYVAC, as compared to WR, WYETH and COPENHAGEN strains (Tables 17 and 18). Significantly, no evidence of disseminated vaccinia infection or vaccinia disease was observed in NYVAC-inoculated animals or ALVAC-inoculated animals over 35 the observation period. The deletion of multiple virulence-associated genes in NYVAC shows a synergistic effect with respect to pathogenicity. Another measure of

the inocuity of NYVAC was provided by the intradermal administration on rabbit skin (Tables 17 and 18). Considering the results with ALVAC, a virus unable to replicate in nonavian species, the ability to replicate at the site of inoculation is not the sole correlate with reactivity, since intradermal inoculation of ALVAC caused areas of induration in a dose dependent manner. Therefore, it is likely that factors other than the replicative capacity of the virus contribute to the formation of the lesions. Deletion of specific virulence-associated genes in NYVAC prevents lesion occurrence.

Together, the results in this Example and in foregoing Examples, including Example 10, demonstrate the highly attenuated nature of NYVAC relative to WR, and the previously utilized vaccinia virus vaccine strains, WYETH and COPENHAGEN. In fact, the pathogenic profile of NYVAC, in the animal model systems tested, was similar to that of ALVAC, a poxvirus known to productively replicate only in avian species. The apparently restricted capacity of NYVAC to productively replicate on cells derived from humans (Table 16) and other species, including the mouse, swine, dog and horse, provides a considerable barrier that limits or prevents potential transmission to unvaccinated contacts or to the general environment in addition to providing a vector with reduced probability of dissemination within the vaccinated individual.

Significantly, NYVAC-based vaccine candidates have been shown to be efficacious. NYVAC recombinants expressing foreign gene products from a number of pathogens have elicited immunological responses towards the foreign gene products in several animal species, including primates. In particular, a NYVAC-based recombinant expressing the rabies glycoprotein was able to protect mice against a lethal rabies challenge. The potency of the NYVAC-based rabies glycoprotein

recombinant was comparable to the PD₅₀ value for a COPENHAGEN-based recombinant containing the rabies glycoprotein in the tk locus (Table 20). NYVAC-based recombinants have also been shown to elicit measles virus neutralizing antibodies in rabbits and protection against pseudorabies virus and Japanese encephalitis virus challenge in swine. The highly attenuated NYVAC strain confers safety advantages with human, animal, medical and veterinary applications (Tartaglia et al., 1992).

10 Furthermore, the use of NYVAC as a general laboratory expression vector system may greatly reduce the biological hazards associated with using vaccinia virus.

By the following criteria, the results of this Example and the Examples herein, including Example 10, show NYVAC to be highly attenuated: a) no detectable induration or ulceration at site of inoculation (rabbit skin); b) rapid clearance of infectious virus from intradermal site of inoculation (rabbit skin); c) absence of testicular inflammation (nude mice); d) greatly reduced virulence (intracranial challenge, both three-week old and newborn mice); e) greatly reduced pathogenicity and failure to disseminate in immunodeficient subjects (nude and cyclophosphamide treated mice); and f) dramatically reduced ability to replicate on a variety of human tissue culture cells. Yet, in spite of being highly attenuated, NYVAC, as a vector, retains the ability to induce strong immune responses to extrinsic antigens.

TABLE 16

Replication of COPENHAGEN (VC-2), NYVAC and ALVAC in avian or human derived cell lines

Cells	Hours post-infection	Yield ^a			% Yield
		VC-2	NYVAC	ALVAC	
5	CEF	0	3.8 ^b	3.7	4.5
		24	8.3	7.8	6.6
		48	8.6	7.9	7.7
		72	8.3	7.7	7.5
		72A ^c	<1.4	1.8	3.1
	MRC-5	0	3.8	3.8	4.7
10		72	7.2	4.6	3.8
		72A	2.2	2.2	3.7
	WISH*	0	3.4	3.4	4.3
		72	7.6	2.2	3.1
		72A	- ^d	1.9	2.9
	DETROIT	0	3.8	3.7	4.4
15		72	7.2	5.4	3.4
		72A	1.7	1.7	2.9
	HEL	0	3.8	3.5	4.3
		72	7.5	4.6	3.3
		72A	2.5	2.1	3.6
	JT-1	0	3.1	3.1	4.1
20		72	6.5	3.1	4.2
		72A	2.4	2.1	4.4
	HNK	0	3.8	3.7	4.7
		72	7.6	4.5	3.6
		72A	3.1	2.7	3.7
					0.079

a: Yield of NYVAC at 72 hours post-infection expressed as a percentage of yield of VAC-2 after 72 hours on the same cell line.

b: Titer expressed as LOG₅₀ pfu per ml.

c: Sample was incubated in the presence of 40µg/ml of cytosine arabinoside.

d: Not determined.

*: ATCC #CCL25 Human amnionic cells.

Table 17. Induration and ulceration at the site of intradermal inoculation of the rabbit skin

	VIRUS STRAIN	DOSE ^a	INDURATION		ULCERATION	
			Size ^b	Days ^c	Size	Days
5	WR	10^4	386	30	88	30
		10^5	622	35	149	32
		10^6	1057	34	271	34
10		10^7	877	35	204	35
		10^8	581	25	88	26
		WYETH	10^4	32	5	- ^d
15		10^5	116	15	-	-
		10^6	267	17	3	15
		10^7	202	17	3	24
20	VC-2	10^8	240	29	12	31
		10^4	64	7	-	-
		10^5	86	8	-	-
25		10^6	136	17	-	-
		10^7	167	21	6	10
		10^8	155	32	6	8
30	NYVAC	10^4	-	-	-	-
		10^5	-	-	-	-
		10^6	-	-	-	-
		10^7	-	-	-	-
		10^8	-	-	-	-

30

^a pfu of indicated vaccinia virus in 0.1 ml PBS inoculated intradermally into one site.

^b mean maximum size of lesions (mm^2)

^c mean time after inoculation for complete healing of lesion.

^d no lesions discernable.

Table 18. Persistence of poxviruses at the site of intradermal inoculation

	Virus	Inoculum Dose	Total Virus Recovered
5	WR	8.0 ^a	6.14
		7.0	6.26
		6.0	6.21
10	WYETH	8.0	3.66
		7.0	4.10
		6.0	3.59
15	VC-2	8.0	4.47
		7.0	4.74
		6.0	3.97
	NYVAC	8.0	0
		7.0	0
		6.0	0

a: expressed as \log_{10} pfu.

Table 19. Virulence studies in immunocompromised mice

Poxvirus Strain	LD_{50}^a	
	Nude mice	Cyclophosphamide treated mice
WR	422	42
VC-2	$>10^9$	$<1.65 \times 10^5$
WYETH	1.58×10^7	1.83×10^6
NYVAC	$>5.50 \times 10^8$	7.23×10^8
ALVAC	$>10^9$	$\geq 5.00 \times 10^{8b}$

5 a: Calculated 50% lethal dose (pfu) for nude or cyclophosphamide treated mice by the indicated vaccinia viruses and for ALVAC by intraperitoneal route.

10 b: 5 out of 10 mice died at the highest dose of 5×10^8 pfu.

20 Table 20. Comparative efficacy of NYVAC-RG and ALVAC-RG in mice

Recombinant	PD_{50}^a
VV-RG	3.74
ALVAC-RG	3.86
NYVAC-RG	3.70

25 a: Four to six week old mice were inoculated in the footpad with 50-100 μ l of a range of dilutions (2.0 - 8.0 log₁₀ tissue culture infection dose 50% (TCID₅₀) of either the VV-RG (Kieny et al., 1984), ALVAC-RG (vCP65) or NYVAC-RG (vP879). At day 14, mice of each group were challenged by intracranial inoculation of 30 μ l of a live CVS strain rabies virus corresponding to 15 lethal dose 50% (LD₅₀) per mouse. At day 28, surviving mice were counted and a protective dose 50% (PD₅₀) was calculated.

EXAMPLE 12 - GENERATION OF A NYVAC RECOMBINANT EXPRESSING HTLV-I ENV

NYVAC and ALVAC HTLV-I envelope recombinant vaccines
5 were constructed using plasmid DNA from the HTLV-I₁₇₁₁
molecular clone obtained from a culture of primary cells
of a West African patient (Cardoso, 1989).

Phylogenetically HTLV-I₁₇₁₁ belongs to the cosmopolitan
family of HTLV-I (Gessain, 1992).

10 A donor plasmid containing the I3L-promoted human T-
cell lymphotropic virus type I (HTLV-I) envelope gene was
generated by the following procedure. A 100 bp PCR
fragment, PCR-HTLV 18, containing the I3L promoter fused
to the 5'-end of the HTLV-I envelope gene, was generated
15 from the plasmid, pMM102, with the oligonucleotide
primers, MW093 (SEQ ID NO:37; 5'-
ATCATCGGTACCACATCATGCAGTGGTTAAC-3') and MW110 (SEQ ID
NO:38; 5'-GGCGAGAAACTTACCCATGATTAAACCTAAATAATTG-3'). A
1,500 bp PCR fragment, pCR-HTLV21, containing the 3'-end
20 of the I3L promoter fused to the entire HTLV-I envelope
gene, was generated from the plasmid, p17-SST (containing
entire HTLV-I nucleotide sequence), with the
oligonucleotide primers, MW113 (SEQ ID NO:39; 5'-
CAATTATTTAGGTTAATCATGGTAAGTTCTGCC-3') and MW116 (SEQ
25 ID NO:40; 5'-ATCATCTCTAGAATAAAATTACAGGGATGACTCAGGG-3').
A 1,600 bp PCR fragment, PCR-HTLV24, containing the I3L-
promoted envelope gene, was generated by using the PCR
fragments, PCR-HTLV18 and PCR-HTLV21, as templates in a
PCR reaction with the oligonucleotide primers, MW093 (SEQ
30 ID NO:37) and MW116 (SEQ ID NO:40). The I3L-promoted
envelope gene was then cloned into pBSK. This was
accomplished in 3 steps. 1) The I3L promoter and the
5'-end of the envelope gene was cloned into pBSK. This
was accomplished by digesting the 1,600 bp PCR fragment,
35 PCR-HTLV24, with KpnI and cloning the resulting 1,100 bp
fragment into the KpnI site of pBSK. The plasmid
generated by this manipulation was called pMAW015. 2)
The 3'-end of the envelope gene was cloned into pBSK.

This was accomplished by digesting the 1,600 bp PCR fragment, PCR-HTLV24, with KpnI and XbaI and cloning the resulting 530 bp fragment into the 2,900 bp KpnI-XbaI fragment of pBSK. The plasmid generated by this manipulation was called pMAW013. 3) The I3L promoter and the 5'-end of the envelope gene was then cloned upstream from the 3'-end of the envelope gene. This was accomplished by cloning the 1,100 bp KpnI fragment of pMAW015, containing the I3L promoter and the 5'-end of the envelope gene, into the KpnI site of pMAW013. The plasmid generated by this manipulation is called pMAW016.

The I3L-promoted envelope gene was then cloned between canarypox C5 flanking arms. This was accomplished by cloning the 1,600 bp partial KpnI-XbaI fragment of pMAW16, containing the I3L-promoted envelope gene, into the 4,800 bp KpnI-XbaI fragment of pVQC5LSP6. The plasmid generated by this manipulation is called pMAW017.

pC5LSP was digested with BamHI and ligated to annealed oligonucleotides CP32 (SEQ ID NO:41) (5'-GATCTTAATTAAATTAGTCATCAGGCAGGGCGAGAACGA GACTATCTGCTCGTTAATTAAATTAGGTCGACG-3') and CP33 (SEQ ID NO:42) (5'-GATCCGTCGACCTAATTAAACGAGCACATAGTCTCGTTCTGCC CTGCCTGATGACTAATTAAATTAA-3') to generate pVQC5LSP6.

pC5L was digested within the polylinker with Asp718 and NotI, treated with alkaline phosphatase and ligated to kinased and annealed oligonucleotides CP26 (SEQ ID NO:43) (5'- GTACGTGACTAATTAGCTATAAAAAGGATCCGGTACCCCTCGAGTCTAGAATC GATCCCGGGTTTTATGACTAGTTAACAC -3') and CP27 (SEQ ID NO:44) (5'- GGCCGTGATTAACTAGTCATAAAAACCCGGGATCGATTCTAGACTCGAGGGT ACCGGATCCTTTTATAGCTAATTAGTCAC -3') (containing a disabled Asp718 site, translation stop codons in six reading frames, vaccinia early transcription termination signal (Yuen and Moss, 1987), BamHI, KpnI, XhoI, XbaI,

ClaI, and SmaI restriction sites, vaccinia early transcription termination signal, translation stop codons in six reading frames, and a disabled NotI site) generating plasmid pC5LSP.

5 The C5L insertion plasmid was derived as follows. Using the cosmid vector pVK102 (Knauf and Nester, 1982), a genomic library for vCP65 (ALVAC-based rabies G recombinant with rabies in C5 locus) was constructed. This library was probed with the 0.9 kb PvuII

10 canarypoxvirus genomic fragment contained within pRW764.5 (C5 locus). These canarypox DNA sequences contain the original insertion locus. A clone containing a 29 kb insert was grown up and designated pHCO51. From this cosmid containing C5 sequences, a 3.3 kb Cla fragment was

15 subcloned. Sequence analysis from this ClaI fragment was used to extend the map of the C5 locus from 1-1372.

The C5 insertion vector, pC5L, was constructed in two steps. The 1535 bp left arm was generated by PCR amplification using oligonucleotides C5A (SEQ ID NO:45) 20 (5'-ATCATCGAATTCTGAATGTTAAATGTTACTTTG) and C5B (SEQ ID NO:46) (GGGGGTACCTTGAGAGTACCACTTCAG-3'). The template DNA was vCP65 genomic DNA. This fragment was cloned into EcoRI/SmaI digested pUC8. The sequence was confirmed by standard sequencing protocols. The 404 bp right arm was 25 generated by PCR amplification using oligonucleotides C5C (SEQ ID NO:47) (5'-ATCATCCTGCAGGTATTCTAAACTAGGAATAGATG-3') and C5DA (SEQ ID NO:48) (5'-ATCATCCTGCAGGTATTC TAAACTAGGAATAGATG-3'). This fragment was then cloned into the vector previously generated containing the left 30 arm digested with SmaI/PstI. The entire construct was confirmed by standard sequence analysis and designated pC5L. This insertion plasmid enables the insertion of foreign genes into the C5 locus.

The I3L-promoted envelope gene was then cloned 35 between vaccinia HA flanking arms. This was accomplished by cloning the 1,600 bp partial KpnI-XbaI fragment of pMAW017, containing the I3L-promoted envelope gene, into

the 3,600 bp KpnI-XbaI fragment of pSPHAH6. The plasmid generated by this manipulation is called pMAW018.

Plasmid pSPHAH6 was derived as follows. Plasmid pMP2VCL (containing a polylinker region within vaccinia

5 sequences upstream of the K1L host range gene) was digested within the polylinker with HindIII and XhoI and ligated to annealed oligonucleotides SPHPRHA A through D (SPHPRHA A (SEQ ID NO:49) 5'-AGCTTCTTTATTC
TATACTTAAAAAGTGAAAATAACAAAGGTTCTTGAGGGT-3'

10 SPHPRHA B (SEQ ID NO:50) 5'-
TGTGTTAAATTGAAAGCGAGAAATAATCAT
AAATTATTCATTATCGCGATATCCGTTAAGTTGTATCGTAC-3'
SPHPRHA C (SEQ ID NO:51) 3'-TTATTAGTATTTAATAAGTAATAGCG
CTATAGGCAATTCAAACATAGCATGAGCT-5'

15 SPHPRHA D (SEQ ID NO:52) 3'-AGAAATAAGATATGAATTTTCACTTT
TATTTATGTTCCAAGAACTCCAACACAATTAACTTCGCTCT-5') generating pSP126 containing a HindIII site, H6 promoter -124 through -1 (Perkus et al., 1989) and XhoI, KpnI, SmaI, SacI and EcoRI sites.

20 Plasmid pSD544 (containing vaccinia sequences surrounding the site of the HA gene replaced with a polylinker region and translation termination codons in six reading frames) was digested with XhoI within the polylinker, filled in with the Klenow fragment of DNA polymerase I and treated with alkaline phosphatase.
25 SP126 was digested with HindIII, treated with Klenow and the H6 promoter isolated by digestion with SmaI. Ligation of the H6 promoter fragment to pSD544 generated pSPHAH6 which contained the H6 promoter in the polylinker

30 region (in the direction of HA transcription). This insertion plasmid enables the replacement of the vaccinia HA gene (A56; Goebel et al., 1990a,b) with foreign genetic material.

pMAW018 was used in *in vitro* recombination experiments with NYVAC as the rescuing virus to yield vP1181.

100

EXAMPLE 13 - GENERATION OF A NYVAC RECOMBINANT EXPRESSING HTLV-I ENV

5 pMAW017, obtained as described in Example 12, was used in *in vitro* recombination experiments with ALVAC as the rescuing virus to yield vCP203.

EXAMPLE 14 - ANALYSIS OF ALVAC AND NYVAC RECOMBINANTS EXPRESSING ENTIRE HTLV-1171 ENVELOPE (gp 46, gp21)

10 The HTLV-I cell-associated challenge was prepared using a short-term coculture of human cord blood cells infected with HTLV-I_{SAU}, a West Indican isolate which also belongs to the cosmopolitan HTLV type (Gassain, 1992).

15 Four rabbit pairs were inoculated with 8×10^4 , 4×10^4 , 2×10^4 and 1×10^4 HTLV-I_{SAU}-infected human cells by the intravenous (I.V.) route as indicated in Table 22. To ascertain the virological status after viral exposure of the inoculated animals, virus isolation was performed several times from

20 purified peripheral blood mononuclear cells (PBMC) either by direct culture or by cocultivation with human cord blood cells.

As shown in Table 22, each pair of rabbits inoculated with 8 or 4×10^4 cells become infected after 25 viral exposure. Only one of two animals were infected using 2×10^4 cells whereas none of the rabbits were infected using 1×10^4 as judged by virus isolation and polymerase chain reaction (PCR). Thus, a dose of 5×10^4 cells was chosen to challenge the vaccinated animals.

30 Since only 30% of the HTLV-I_{SAU}-infected human cells used in the *in vitro* titration study were stained by a monoclonal antibody against the HTLV-I p19 gag antigen in an immunofluorescence assay, the challenge does correspond to approximately 1.5×10^4 cells expressing 35 virus.

Twelve animals were used in the ALVAC HTLV-I_{env} (vCP203) trials (Table 21). Eight animals (groups 1 and 2) were immunized with two doses (10^7 pfu) of recombinant ALVAC HTLV-I_{env} ("R-ALVAC") (vCP203) by the intramuscular (I.M.) route, 1 month apart. As a control the remaining

four animals (group 3) received the non-recombinant ALVAC vector. The animals in group 1 also received two doses each of 100 µg of purified, baculovirus expressed (Arp, 1993) HTLV-I envelope precursor gp63 formulated in Alum 5 at 4 and 5 months, respectively, following the initial inoculation (Table 21). Six months after the first inoculation all 12 animals were challenged with 5×10^4 HTLV-I_{SAU}-infected cells by the I.V. route. Viral infection was monitored by viral isolation from primary 10 rabbit culture or by cocultivation with human cord blood cells, as well as by PCR analysis of rabbit PBMC DNA. The primers pair used for PCR was T1ER: 5' TATCCTTGCAGGACCATGCATC 3' (SEQ ID NO:53) and t1er: AAGCAGGAAGAGCAGGAGCG 3' (SEQ ID NO:54) which amplified 15 the HTLV-I envelop gene fragment spanning nucleotides 6569 to 6921. Three of the four control animals immunized with the non-recombinant ALVAC became infected. In group 1, which received the combination protocol consisting of priming with R-ALVAC (vCP203) and boosting 20 with the gp46 subunit preparation, three of the four animals became infected as judged by virus isolation and PCR analysis. However, all four animals in group 2, which received only two doses of R-ALVAC (vCP203) at 0 and 28 days, were protected as judged by the inability to 25 detect HTLV-I by virus isolation and PCR (Table 21). Animal 34438 was PCR positive on one occasion, but virus was never isolated from its PBMC nor from its spleen (collected post-mortem).

These data indicated that immunization with R-ALVAC 30 (vCP203) alone was sufficient to elicit a protective immune response in rabbits against a HTLV-I challenge exposure. Further, prime/boost protocol utilizing the R-ALVAC (vCP203) to prime HTLV-I-specific immune responses and a baculovirus gp63 subunit preparation as a booster 35 inoculation did not serve to confer protection and, while not wishing to be necessarily bound by any one particular theory, this suggests that administration of the gp63

subunit preparation negated the protective efficacy of R-ALVAC (vCP203) observed in group 1. The serological analysis of the animals in this protocol (Fig. 12) was consistent with the virus isolation and PCR data. In 5 fact, seroconversion to HTLV-I was observed only in the infected animals in groups 1 and 3 (Fig. 12).

Detection of antibodies against HTLV-I in the sera of animals in the ALVAC env prime boost protocol is shown in Fig. 12. The upper portion of Fig. 12 represents the 10 vaccination protocol for each animal group. The numbers represent the time (months) of each inoculation. The Western blot was performed using strips from Cellular Products (Buffalo, NY) and the sera from the immunized animals are as follows: A, 1 week after the first ALVAC 15 boost; B, after the second protein boost; C, at time of challenge; and D, 4 months after live virus challenge.

To explore the potential of the NYVAC HTLV-I_{env} (vP1181), four animals were immunized with two I.M. 20 administrations of 10^7 pfu of R-NYVAC (vP1181) at 0 and 1 month. Four additional animals served as controls receiving the non-recombinant NYVAC vector under the same dosing schedule. All rabbits were challenged 1 month following the second immunization. Virus isolation and 25 PCR analysis following challenge exposure to 5×10^4 HTLV-I_{so1}-infected cells, revealed that all the vaccinated animals were protected again the cell-associated viral challenge, whereas all the controls became infected. As expected, only the control animals seroconverted against 30 viral antigen (Fig. 13). Thus, the NYVAC recombinant elicited an immune response sufficient to clear viral infection in the animal exposed to HTLV-I in a short-time after immunization (see Table 23 and Fig. 13).

Serological response in the NYVAC env vaccinated and 35 challenged animals is shown in Fig. 13. The outline of the vaccination protocol is displayed at the top of Fig. 13. The numbers represent the time (months) of each inoculation. The sera tested in Western blot were

obtained at the following times: A, before immunization; B, 1 weeks after the first boost; and C, 4 months after challenge.

As a means of evaluation the duration of immunity conferred by R-ALVAC and R-NYVAC (vCP203 and vP1181), all animals deemed protected following the initial challenge exposure were rechallenged 5 months following the first challenge with HTLV-I_{BOU}-infected cells. The second challenge consisted of 5 ml of heparinized blood from the 34549 HTLV-I_{BOU}-infected animal (see Table 21). Roughly 1 to 10% of rabbit PBMC are usually infected by HTLV-I, and assuming this range in the challenge blood, the challenge dose would be 1 to 2 logs higher than the first challenge dose. Rabbit blood was used as challenged rather than human cells infected with HTLV-I^{BOU} to avoid a readout of the experimental results due to an immune response directed against human cells. Four naive animals were used as controls. Viral isolation and PCR analysis revealed that all the vaccinated animals, as well as the control animals, became infected by this HTLV-I challenge exposure (Tables 21 and 23). Neutralizing antibodies were measured in all the ALVAC and NYVAC recombinants vaccinated animals, as well as in the controls using a syncytium inhibition assay with C91/PL and 8166 cells as previously described (Benson, 1994). A consistent pattern was observed inasmuch as neutralizing antibodies were not detectable in all animals before viral challenge and only the animals that became infected (as judged by virus isolation and PCR) developed detectable HTLV-I specific neutralizing antibodies.

These results support previous findings which demonstrated the ability of NYVAC and ALVAC-based recombinants to effectively prime protective immune responses against retrovirus challenges (Tartaglia, 1992; Piccini, 1987, Tartaglia, 1993). For example, an ALVAC-based recombinant expressing the feline leukemia virus (FeLV) env and gag proteins was shown to protect cats

from developing a persistent viremia following an occasional FeLV challenge exposure (Tartaglia, 1993). Further, pilot studies using NYVAC and ALVAC-based HIV-2 recombinants in rhesus macaques have been shown to afford 5 protection from infection by a live HIV-2 challenge (Franchini) and, similarly, partial protection was observed in animals immunized with NYVAC and ALVAC-based HIV-1 recombinants following challenge with HIV-2 (Abimiku). These results are also in agreement with an 10 earlier report (Shida, 1987) which demonstrated that a mildly attenuated recombinant vaccinia virus expressing the HTLV-I envelope gene could protect rabbits from challenge with live HTLV-I infected human cells. Thus, surprisingly the efficacy of the NYVAC and ALVAC HTLV 15 recombinants is not affected by the more highly attenuated and safer nature of the NYVAC and ALVAC poxvirus vectors employed in the HTLV recombinants.

The observation that boosting with recombinant gp63 resulted in a lack of protection in the rabbits is, 20 without wishing to necessarily be bound by any one particular theory, possibly due to the recombinant gp63 protein being processed and presented in a manner quite different from that of the envelope protein expressed by the NYVAC and ALVAC poxvirus-infected cells. Another 25 possibility, again, without wishing to be bound by why one particular theory, is that the immunosuppressive region within the transmembrane portion of the non-native recombinant gp63 immunogen might have exerted a strong negative effect on the anti-HTLV-I cell-mediated immune 30 response induced by the NYVAC or ALVAC vectors. However, earlier studies with recombinant, non-native *E. coli*-derived β -galactosidase (β -gal) fusion proteins containing either the amino- or carboxy-terminal halves of gp63, when immunized as a mixture, was protective in 35 cynomolgous monkey (Nakamura, 1987). Besides the species difference, the immunization protocol used 1-2 milligrams of recombinant protein in Complete Freud's

adjuvant followed by boosts in Incomplete Freud's adjuvant with different injection routes, including I.V. administration. Thus, the immunization regimen is not directly comparable. However, it is interesting to note
5 that the immunization protocol with the *E. coli*-derived β -gal fusion proteins generated only minimal anti-HTLV-I and neutralizing antibody titers. This suggests, without wishing to necessarily be bound by any one particular theory, that strong antibody responses might not be
10 necessary for protection from live HTLV-I-infected cell challenge.

As has been documented in various retroviral immunization studies cited above and, without wishing to be necessarily bound by any one theory, as strongly
15 supported here, a general trend discerned from all of these studies (both above-cited and herein), may be that protection from retroviral challenge can be observed in the presence of very low or no detectable virus-specific neutralizing activity at the time of challenge (Clark,
20 1991; Pedersen, 1986; Earl, 1986; Miyazawa, 1992; Issel, 1992); hence, sufficient for protection against retroviruses is proper cellular priming of the immune system.

The fact that the initially protected rabbits failed
25 to resist subsequent challenge with transfused blood from an infected rabbit is possibly due to the 10-100-fold greater infected cell load contained in the transfused challenge dose overwhelming the rabbits' capacity to fend off the infection. However, without necessarily wishing
30 to be bound by any one theory, it is also possible that the HTLV-I may have become adapted to more efficient replication upon passage in rabbits; but this is merely an unproven theory with the greater infected cell load being a fact.

35 Nonetheless, the results presented here demonstrate the ability of the NYVAC and ALVAC-HTLV recombinants and products therefrom to be employed in the compositions and

106

utilities aforementioned, for instance, immunological, antigenic or vaccine compositions, or for use in preparing antigens or antibodies for assays, kits or tests, and, for example, as suitable for uses in vaccine
5 or immunization strategies capable of preventing infection by a cell associated retrovirus such as HTLV-I.

TABLE 21. ALVAC HTLV-I^a VACCINE TRIAL IN NEW ZEALAND WHITE RABBITS

ANIMAL #	0	Month				VIROLOGICAL STATUS (PCR/M)	MONTH 11	VIROLOGICAL STATUS (PCR/M)
		1	4	5	6			
5	34433	R-ALVAC ^b	R-ALVAC	gp63	gp63	HTLV-I-BOU	+ + +	ND
	34434	R-ALVAC	R-ALVAC	gp63	gp63	HTLV-I-BOU	-	ND
	34435	R-ALVAC	R-ALVAC	gp63	gp63	HTLV-I-BOU	-	ND
	34436	R-ALVAC	R-ALVAC	gp63	gp63	HTLV-I-BOU	-	Heparinized ^c +
10	34437	R-ALVAC	R-ALVAC			HTLV-I-BOU	-	Heparinized
	34438	R-ALVAC	R-ALVAC			HTLV-I-BOU	-	ND
	34439	R-ALVAC	R-ALVAC			HTLV-I-BOU	-	Heparinized +
	34440	R-ALVAC	R-ALVAC			HTLV-I-BOU	-	Heparinized +
15	34441	Vector ALVAC ^d	Vector ALVAC			HTLV-I-BOU	-	ND
	34442	Vector ALVAC	Vector ALVAC			HTLV-I-BOU	-	ND
	34548	Vector ALVAC	Vector ALVAC			HTLV-I-BOU	-	ND
	34549	Vector ALVAC	Vector ALVAC			HTLV-I-BOU	-	ND

^a=10² pfu of virus were inoculated by the I.M. route.^bY. Inoculation of 5 x 10⁶ cells infected with HTLV-I-BOU.

ml heparinized blood was obtained from animal 34549 experimentally infected with HTLV-I-BOU.

This animal was positive only once by PCR and analysis scored negative for virus isolation.
+ not done.

TABLE 22. IN VITRO TITRATION OF THE HTLV-I_{BOL} CELL-ASSOCIATED CHALLENGE

5

	Animal #	Number of Cells ^a intravenously inoculated		Virological status (PVR/VI)
		(HTLV-I _{BOL})	(PVR/VI)	
10	34550	8×10^4	+	
	34551	8×10^4	+	
15	34552	4×10^4	+	
	34553	4×10^4	+	
20	34554	2×10^4	-	
	34555	2×10^4	+	
	34556	1×10^4	-	
	34557	1×10^4	-	

^a Approximately 30% of the cells expressed viral p19 antigens as judged by IFA using a monoclonal antibody against the HTLV-I p19.

TABLE 23. NYVAC HTLV-1 VACCINE TRIAL IN NEW ZEALAND WHITE RABBITS

ANIMAL #	Month	VIROLOGICAL STATUS (PCR/M)		MONTH 7	VIROLOGICAL STATUS (PCR/M)
		0	1		
35217	R-NYVAC ^a	R-NYVAC	HTLV-1 _{Bou} ^b	-	Heparinized ^c
35218	R-NYVAC	R-NYVAC	HTLV-1 _{Bou}	-	Heparinized
35219	R-NYVAC	R-NYVAC	HTLV-1 _{Bou}	-	Heparinized
35220	R-NYVAC	R-NYVAC	HTLV-1 _{Bou}	-	Heparinized
35225	NYVAC ^a	NYVAC	HTLV-1 _{Bou}	+	ND
35226	NYVAC	NYVAC	HTLV-1 _{Bou}	+	ND
35227	NYVAC	NYVAC	HTLV-1 _{Bou}	+	ND
35228	NYVAC	NYVAC	HTLV-1 _{Bou}	+	ND
35254					Heparinized
25255					Heparinized
25256					Heparinized
25257					Heparinized

20

^a 10⁷ pfu of virus were inoculated by the I.M. route.^b I.V. inoculation of 5 x 10⁴ cells infected with HTLV-1_{Bou}.^c 5 ml heparinized blood was obtained from animal 34549 experimentally infected with HTLV-1_{Bou} (see Table 21).

ND

= Not done.

110

Having thus described in detail preferred embodiments of the present invention, it is to be understood that the invention defined by the appended claims is not to be limited by particular details set forth in the above description as many apparent variations thereof are possible without departing from the spirit or scope thereof.

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 (1987).

149. Zhou et al., J. Gen. Virol. 71:2185-2190 (1990).

SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

- (i) APPLICANT: Virogenetics Corporation
- (ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: RECOMBINANT POXVIRUS-HTLV, COMPOSITIONS AND USES
- (iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 56
- (iv) CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:
 - (A) ADDRESSEE: Curtis, Morris & Safford, P.C.
 - (B) STREET: 530 Fifth Avenue, 25th Floor
 - (C) CITY: New York
 - (D) STATE: New York
 - (E) COUNTRY: U.S.A.
 - (F) ZIP: 10036
- (v) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:
 - (A) MEDIUM TYPE: Floppy disk
 - (B) COMPUTER: IBM PC compatible
 - (C) OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS/MS-DOS
 - (D) SOFTWARE: PatentIn Release #1.0, Version #1.30
- (vi) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:
 - (A) APPLICATION NUMBER: Not Assigned Yet
 - (B) FILING DATE: 12-JAN-1996
 - (C) CLASSIFICATION:
- (vii) PRIOR APPLICATION DATA:
 - (A) APPLICATION NUMBER: US 08/372,664
 - (B) FILING DATE: 13-JAN-1995
- (viii) ATTORNEY/AGENT INFORMATION:
 - (A) NAME: Frommer, William S.
 - (B) REGISTRATION NUMBER: 25,506
 - (C) REFERENCE/DOCKET NUMBER: 454310-2621
- (ix) TELECOMMUNICATION INFORMATION:
 - (A) TELEPHONE: (212) 840-3333
 - (B) TELEFAX: (212) 840-0712

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 20 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:1:

TAATTAACTA GCTACCCGGG

20

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:2:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 28 base pairs

- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:2:

GTACATTAAT TGATCGATGG GCCCTTAA

28

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:3:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
- (A) LENGTH: 73 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:3:

AGCTTCCCGG GTAAGTAATA CGTCAAGGAG AAAACGAAAC GATCTGTAGT TAGCGGCCGC

60

CTAATTAACT AAT

73

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:4:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
- (A) LENGTH: 69 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:4:

AGGGCCATT CATTATGCAG TTCCTTTT GCTTGCTAG ACATCAATCG CCGGCAGGATT

60

AATTGATTA

69

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:5:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
- (A) LENGTH: 20 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:5:

123

TTAGTTAATT AGGCGGCCGC

20

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:6:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 22 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:6:

CGATTACTAT GAAGGGATCCG TT

22

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:7:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 20 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:7:

TAATGATACT TCCTAGGCAA

20

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:8:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 41 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:8:

CGATTACTAG ATCTGAGCTC CCCGGGCTCG AGGGATCCGT T

41

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:9:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 39 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

124

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:9:

TAAATGATCTA GACTCGAGGG GCCCGAGCTC CCTAGGCAA

39

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:10:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 16 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:10:

GATCCGAATT CTAGCT

16

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:11:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 12 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:11:

GCTTAAGATC GA

12

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:12:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 75 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:12:

TATGAGTAAC TTAACTCTTT TGTTAATTAA AAGTATATTC AAAAAATAAG TTATATAAAT

60

AGATCTGAAT TCGTT

75

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:13:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 73 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:13:

ACTCATTGAA TTGAGAAAAAC AATTAATTTT CATATAAGTT TTTTATTCAA TATATTTATC 60
TAGACTTAAG CAA 73

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:14:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 49 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:14:

AAAATGGCG TGGATTGTTA ACTTTATATA ACTTATTTTT TGAATATAAC 49

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:15:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 67 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:15:

ACACGAATGA TTTTCTAAAG TATTTGGAAA GTTTTATAGG TAGTTGATAG AACAAAATAC 60
ATAATTT 67

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:16:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 51 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:16:

TGTGCTTACT AAAAGATTTC ATAAACCTTT CAAAATATCC ATCAACTATC T 51

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:17:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 46 base pairs

126

- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:17:

TGTAAGAAATA AATCACTTTT TATACATAAGA TCTCCCGGGC TGCAGC

46

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:18:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 66 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:18:

TGTTTTATGT ATTAAAACAT TTTTATTTAG TGAAAAATAT GATTCTAGAG GGCCCGACGT

60

CGCCGG

66

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:19:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 50 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:19:

TTTCTGTATA TTTGCACCAA TTTAGATCTT ACTCAAAATA TGTAACAATA

50

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:20:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 44 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:20:

TGTCACTTAA CACTATACTC ATATTAATAA AAATAATATT TATT

44

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:21:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 72 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:21:

GATCCTGAGT ACTTTGTAAT ATAATGATAT ATATTTCAC TTTATCTCAT TTGAGAATAA 60
AAAGATCTTA GG 72

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:22:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 72 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:22:

GACTCATGAA ACATTATATT ACTATATATA AAAGTGAAAT AGAGTAAACT CTTATTTTC 60
TAGAACCTT AA 72

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:23:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 72 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:23:

GATCCAGATC TCCCAGGGAAA AAAATTATTT AACTTTCAT TAATAGGGAT TTGACGTATG 60
TAGCGTACTA GG 72

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:24:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 72 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:24:

GTCTAGAGGG CCCTTTTTT AATAAATTGA AAAGTAATTA TCCCTAAACT GCATACTACG 60
CATGATCCTT AA 72

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:25:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 40 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:25:

GGGAGATCTC TCGAGCTGCA GGGGCCCGGA TCCTTTTCT 40

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:26:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 40 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 26:

CCCTCTAGAG AGCTCGACGT CCCGGGGCCT ACGAAAAAGA 40

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:27:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 3209 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:27:

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TGAATGTTAA ATGTTATACT TTGGATGAAG CTATAAATAT GCATTGGAAA AATAATCCAT 60
TTAAAGAACG GATTCAAATA CTACAAAACC TAAGCGATAA TATGTTAACT AAGCTTATTTC 120
TTAACGACGC TTTAAATATA CACAAATAAA CATAATTTT GTATAACCTA ACAAAATAACT 180
AAAAACATAAAA AATAATAAAAA GGAAATGTAA TATCGTAATT ATTTTACTCA GGAATGGGGT 240

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TAAATATTTA TATCACCGTGT ATATCTATAAC TGTTATCGTA TACTCTTTAC AATTACTATT	300
ACGAATATGC AAGAGATAAT AAGATTACGT ATTTAAGAGA ATCTTGTCAAT GATAATTGGG	360
TACGACATAG TGATAAAATGC TATTCGCAT CGTTACATAA AGTCAGTTGG AAAGATGGAT	420
TTGACAGATG TAACCTAATA GGTGCAAAAA TGTTAAATAA CAGCATTCTA TCGGAAGATA	480
GGATACCACTG TATATTATAAC AAAAATCACT GGTTGGATAA AACAGATTCT GCAATATTCTG	540
TAAAAGATGA AGATTACTGC GAATTGTAA ACTATGACAA TAAAAAGCCA TTTATCTCAA	600
CGACATCGTG TAATTCTTCC ATGTTTTATG TATGTGTTTC AGATATTATG AGATTACTAT	660
AAACTTTTG TATACTTATA TTCCGTAAAC TATATTAACT ATGAAGAAAA TGAAAAAGTA	720
TAGAAGCTGT TCACGAGCGG TTGTTGAAAA CAACAAAATT ATACATTCAA GATGGCTTAC	780
ATATACGTCT GTGAGGCTAT CATGGATAAT GACAATGCAT CTCTAAATAG GTTTTGGAC	840
AATGGATTCTG ACCCTAACAC GGAATATGGT ACTCTACAAT CTCCTCTGA AATGGCTGTA	900
ATGTTCAAGA ATACCGAGGC TATAAAAATC TTGATGAGGT ATGGAGCTAA ACCTGTAGTT	960
ACTGAATGCA CAACTTCTTG TCTGCATGAT GCGGTGTTGA GAGACGACTA CAAAATAGTG	1020
AAAGATCTGT TGAAGAATAA CTATGTAAAC AATGTTCTTT ACAGCGGAGG CTTTACTCCT	1080
TTGTTGG CAGCTTACCT TAACAAAGTT AATTGGTTA AACTTCTATT GGCTCATTCG	1140
GCGGATGTAG ATATTCAAA CACGGATCGG TTAACTCCTC TACATATAGC CGTATCAAAT	1200
AAAAATTAA CAATGGTTAA ACTTCTATTG AACAAAGGTG CTGATACTGA CTTGCTGGAT	1260
AACATGGGAC GTACTCCTTT AATGATCGCT GTACAATCTG GAAATATTGA AATATGTAGC	1320
ACACTACTTA AAAAAAATAA AATGTCCAGA ACTGGAAAA ATTGATCTTG CCAGCTGTAA	1380
TTCATGGTAG AAAAGAAGTG CTCAGGCTAC TTTCAACAA AGGAGCAGAT GTAAACTACA	1440
TCTTGAAAG AAATGGAAAA TCATATACTG TTTTGGATT GATTAAAGAA AGTTACTCTG	1500
AGACACAAAA GAGGTAGCTG AAGTGGTACT CTCAAAATGC AGAACGATGA CTGCGAAGCA	1560
AGAAGTAGAG AAATAACACT TTATGACTTT CTTAGTTGTA GAAAAGATAG AGATATAATG	1620
ATGGTCATAA ATAACCTCTGA TATTGCAAGT AAATGCAATA ATAAGTTAGA TTTATTTAAA	1680
AGGATAGTTA AAAATAGAAA AAAAGAGTTA ATTTGTAGGG TTAAAATAAT ACATAAGATC	1740
TTAAAATTAA TAAATACGCA TAATAATAAA AATAGATTAT ACTTATTACC TTCAGAGATA	1800
AAATTTAAGA TATTTACTTA TTTAACTTAT AAAGATCTAA AATGCATAAT TTCTAAATAA	1860
TGAAAAAAAGA GTACATCATG AGCAACGCGT TAGTATATT TACAATGGAG ATTAACGCTC	1920
TATACCGTTC TATGTTTATT GATTCAAGATG ATGTTTTAGA AAAGAAAGTT ATTGAATATG	1980
AAAACCTTAA TGAAGATGAA GATGACGACG ATGATTATTG TTGTAAATCT GTTTTAGATG	2040
AAGAAGATGA CGCGCTAAAG TATACTATGG TTACAAAGTA TAAGTCTATA CTACTAATGG	2100
CGACTTGTGC AAGAAGGTAT AGTATAGTGA AAATGTTGTT AGATTATGAT TATGAAAAAC	2160
CAAATAAAATC AGATCCATAT CTAAGGTAT CTCCTTGCA CATAATTCA TCTATTCCCTA	2220

GTTCAGAATA CTTTCATTA TATTTGTTA CAGCTGAAGA CGAAAAAAAT ATATCGATAA	2280
TAGAAGATTA TGTTAACTCT GCTAATAAGA TGAAATTGAA TGAGTCTGTG ATAATAGCTA	2340
TAATCAGAGA AGTTCTAAAA GGAAATAAAA ATCTAACTGA TCAGGATATA AAAACATTGG	2400
CTGATGAAAT CAACAAGGAG GAACTGAATA TAGCTAAACT ATTGTTAGAT AGAGGGGCCA	2460
AAGTAAATTAA CAAGGATGTT TACGGTTCTT CAGCTCTCCA TAGAGCTGCT ATTGGTAGGA	2520
AACAGGATAT GATAAAGCTG TTAATCGATC ATGGAGCTGA TGTAACACTCT TTAACATTG	2580
CTAAAGATAA TCTTATTAAA AAAAAATAAT ATCACGTTA GTAATATTAA AATATATTAA	2640
TAACCTATT ACTAATAACT CCAGTGGATA TGAACATAAT ACGAAGTTA TACATTCTCA	2700
TCAAAATCTT ATTGACATCA AGTTAGATTG TGAAAATGAG ATTATGAAAT TAAGGAATAC	2760
AAAAATAGGA TGTAAGAACT TACTAGAATG TTTTATCAAT AATGATATGA ATACAGTATC	2820
TAGGGCTATA AACAAATGAAA CGATTAAAAA TTATAAAAAT CATTCCCTA TATATAATAC	2880
GCTCATAGAA AAATTCAATT CTGAAAGTAT ACTAACACAC GAATTATTGG ATGGAGTTAT	2940
AAATTCTTTT CAAGGATTCA ATAARTAAATT GCCTTACGAG ATTCACTACA TTATACTGGA	3000
GAATCTTAAT AACCATGAAC TAAAAAAAAT TTTAGATAAT ATACATTAAA AAGGTAATA	3060
GATCATCTGT TATTATAAGC AAAGATGCTT GTTGCCAATA ATATACAACA GGTATTTGTT	3120
TTTATTTTTA ACTACATATT TGATGTTCAT TCTCTTATA TAGTATACAC AGAAAATTCA	3180
TAATCCACTT AGAATTCTA GTTATCTAG	3209

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:28:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 29 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:28:

GCTTCCCGGG AATTCTAGCT AGCTAGTTT

29

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:29:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 46 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:29:

ACTCTCAAAA GCTTCCCGGG AATTCTAGCT AGCTAGTTT TATAAA

46

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:30:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 50 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:30:

GATCTTATA AAAACTAGCT AGCTAGAATT CCCGGGAAGC TTTTGAGAGT

50

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:31:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 71 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:31:

CTGAAATTAT TTCATTATCG CGATATCCGT TAAGTTGTA TCGTAATGGT TCCTCAGGCT

60

CTCCTGTTG T

71

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:32:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 48 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:32:

CATTACGATA CAAACTAAC GGATATGCC ATAATCAAAT AATTCAG

48

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:33:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 73 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:33:

ACCCCTTCTG GTTTTCGGT TGTGTTTGG GAAATTCCCT ATTTACACGA TCCCAGACAA 60
GCTTAGATCT CAG 73

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:34:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 51 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:34:

CTGAGATCTA AGCTTGCTG GGATCGTGTAAATAGGAAT TTCCCAAAAC A 51

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:35:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 45 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:35:

CAACGGAAAA ACCAGAACAGG GTACAAACAG GAGAGCCTGA GGAAC 45

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:36:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 11 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:36:

GGATCCCCGG G 11

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:37:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 32 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:37:

ATCATCGGTA CCACATCATG CAGTGGTTAA AC

32

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:38:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 37 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:38:

GGCGAGAAC TTACCCATGA TAAACCTAA ATAATTG

37

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:39:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 37 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:39:

CAATTATTTA GGTTTAATCA TGGGTAAGTT TCTCGCC

37

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:40:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 38 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:40:

ATCATCTCTA GAATAAAAAT TACAGGGATG ACTCAGGG

38

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:41:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 1892 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:41:

AAAGTTACTC TGAGACACAA AAGAGGTAGC TGAAGTGGTA CTCTCAAAGG TACGTGACTA	60
ATTAGCTATA AAAAGGATCC GGGTTAATT ATTAGTCATC AGGCAGGGCG AGAACGAGAC	120
TATCTGCTCG TTAATTAATT AGGTCGACGG ATCCGGTACC ACATCATGCA GTGGTTAAAT	180
AAAAACATTT TTATTCTCAA ATGAGATAAA GTGAAAATAT ATATCATTAT ATTACAAAGT	240
ACAATTATTT AGGTTTAATC ATGGGTAAGT TTCTGCCAC TTTGATTTA TTCCTCCAGT	300
TCTGCCCCCT CATCCTCGGT GATTACAGCC CCAGCTGCTG TACTCTCACA ATTGGAGTCT	360
CCTCATACCA CTCTAAACCC TGCAATCCTG CCCAGCCAGT TTGCTCATGG ACCCTCGACC	420
TGCTGGCCCT TTCAGTAGAT CAGGCCCTAC AGCCCCCTG CCCTAATCTG GTAAGTTACT	480
CCAGCTACCA TGCCACCTAT TCCCTATATC TATTCCCTCA TTGGATTAAA AAGCCAAACC	540
GAAATGGCGG AGGCTATTAT TCAGCCTCTT ATTCAAGACCC TTATTCCCTTA AAGTGCCCAT	600
ACCTAGGGTG CCAATCATGG ACCTGCCCT ATACAGGAGC CGTCTCCAGC CCCTACTGG	660
AATTCAGCA AGATGTCAT TTTACTCAAG AAGTTCACG CCTCAATATT AATCTCCATT	720
TTTCAAAATG CGGTTTTCC TTCTCCCTTC TAGTCGACGC TCCAGGATAT GACCCCATCT	780
GGTTCCCTAA TACCGAACCC AGCCAAGTGC CTCCCACCGC CCCTCCTCTA CTCTCCCACT	840
CTAACCTAGA CCACATCCTC GAGCCCTCTA TACCATGGAA ATCAAAACTC CTGACTCTTG	900
TCCAGTTAAC CTTACAAAGC ACTAATTATA CTTGCATTGT CTGTATCGAT CGTGCCAGCC	960
TATCCACTTG GCACGTCCTA TACTCTCCA ACGTCTCTGT TCCATCCTCT TCTTCTACCC	1020
CCCTCCTTTA CCCATCATTA GCGCTTCCAG CCCCCCACCT GACGTTACCA TTAACTGG	1080
CCCACTGCTT TGACCCCCAG ATTCAAGCTA TAGTCTCCTC CCCCTGTCT AACTCCCTCA	1140
TCCTGCCCTT CTTTCCTTG TCACCTGTT CCACCCCTAGG ATCCCGCTCC CGCCGAGCGG	1200
TACCGGTGGC GGTCTGGCTT GTCTCCGCC TGGCCATGGG AGCCGGAGTG GCTGGCGGG	1260
TTACCGGCTC CATGTCCCTC GCCTCAGGAA AGAGCCTCCT ACATGAAGTG GACAAAGATA	1320
TTTCCAATT AACTCAAGCA ATAGTCAAAA ACCACAAAAA TCTACTCAA ATTGCGCAGT	1380
ATGCTGCCCA GAACAGACGA GGCCTTGATC TCCTGTTCTG GGAGCAAGGA GGATTATGCA	1440
AAGCATTACA AGAACAGTGC TGTGTTCTAA ATATTACTAA TTCCCATGTC TCAATACTAC	1500
AAGAAAGACC CCCCCCTGAG AATCGAGTCC TGACTGGCTG GGGCCTTAAC TGGGACCTTG	1560
GCCTCTCACA GTGGGCTCGA GAGGCCCTAC AAACGGAAT CACCCCTGTC GCGCTACTCT	1620
TTCTTGTAT CCTTGAGGA CCATGCATCC TCCGTCAGCT ACGACACCTC CCCTCGCGCG	1680
TCAAATACCC CCATTACTCT CTTATAAACCC CTGAGTCATC CCTGTAATTT TTATTCTAGA	1740

ATCGATCCCG GGTTTTATG ACTAGTTAAT CACGGCCGCT TATAAAGATC TAAAATGCAT	1800
AATTCTAAA TAATGAAAAA AAAGTACATC ATGAGCAACG CGTTAGTATA TTTTACAATG	1860
GAGATTAACG CTCTATACCG TTCTATGTTT AT	1892

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:42:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 70 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:42:

GATCTTAATT AATTAGTCAT CAGGCAGGGC GAGAACGAGA CTATCTGCTC GTTAATTAAT	60
TAGGTCGACG	70

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:43:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 70 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:43:

GATCCGTCGA CCTAATTAAT TAACGAGCAC ATAGTCTCGT TCTCGCCCTG CCTGATGACT	60
AATTAATTAA	70

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:44:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 82 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:44:

GTACGTGACT AATTAGCTAT AAAAAGGATC CGGTACCCCTC GAGTCTAGAA TCGATCCGG	60
GTTTTTATGA CTAGTTAAC AC	82

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:45:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 82 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:45:

GGCCGTGATT AACTAGTCAT AAAAACCCGG GATCGATTCT AGACTCGAGG GTACCGGATC
CTTTTTATAG CTAATTAGTC AC

60

82

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:46:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
- (A) LENGTH: 35 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:46:

ATCATCGAAT TCTGAATGTT AAATGTTATA CTTTG

35

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:47:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
- (A) LENGTH: 35 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:47:

ATCATCGAAT TCTGAATGTT AAATGTTATA CTTTG

35

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:48:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
- (A) LENGTH: 35 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:48:

ATCATCCTGC AGGTATTCTA AACTAGGAAT AGATG

35

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:49:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 35 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:49:

ATCATCCTGC AGGTATTCTA AACTAGGAAT AGATG

35

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:50:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 55 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:50:

AGCTTCTTTA TTCTATACTT AAAAAGTGAA AATAAATACA AAGGTTCTTG AGGGT

55

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:51:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 73 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:51:

TGTGTTAAAT TGAAAGCGAG AAATAATCAT AAATTATTTC ATTATCGCGA TATCCGTTAA

60

GTTTGTATCG TAC

73

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:52:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
(A) LENGTH: 56 base pairs
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:52:

TTATTAGTAT TTAATAAAGT AATAGCGCTA TAGGCAATTG AAACATAGCA TGAGCT

56

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:53:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 72 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:53:

AGAAATAAGA TATGAATTTT TCACTTTAT TTATGTTCC AAGAACTCCC AACACAATT

60

AACTTTCGCT CT

72

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:54:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

- (A) LENGTH: 1814 base pairs
- (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
- (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
- (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:54:

TCTAAAGTAT TTGGAAAGTT TTATAGGTAG TTGATAGAAC AAAATACATA ATTTTGAAA	60
AATAAAATCAC TTTTTATACT AATATTTAAT TAATTAAGCT TGGTACCACA TCATGCAGTG	120
GTTAAATAAA AACATTTTA TTCTCAAATG AGATAAAGTG AAAATATATA TCATTATATT	180
ACAAAGTACA ATTATTTAGG TTTAATCATG GGTAAGTTTC TCGCCACTTT GATTTTATTC	240
CTCCAGTTCT GCCCCCTCAT CCTCGGTGAT TACAGCCCCA GCTGCTGTAC TCTCACAAATT	300
GGAGTCTCCT CATAACCACTC TAAACCCCTGC AATCCTGCC AGCCAGTTG CTCATGGACC	360
CTCGACCTGC TGGCCCTTTC AGTAGATCAG GCCCTACAGC CCCCTGCC TAATCTGGTA	420
AGTTACTCCA GCTACCATGC CACCTATTCC CTATATCTAT TCCCTCATTG GATTAAG	480
CCAAACCGAA ATGGCGGAGG CTATTATTCA GCCTCTTATT CAGACCCCTTA TTCCTTAAAG	540
TGCCCATACC TAGGGTGCCA ATCATGGACC TGCCCTATA CAGGAGCCGT CTCCAGCCCC	600
TACTGGAAAT TTCAGCAAGA TGTCAATTTC ACTCAAGAAC TTTCACGCCT CAATATTAAT	660
CTCCATTTT CAAAATGCGG TTTTCCTTC TCCCTCTAG TCGACGCTCC AGGATATGAC	720
CCCATCTGGT TCCTTAATAC CGAACCCAGC CAACTGCCTC CCACCGCCCC TCCTCTACTC	780
TCCCACCTCTA ACCTAGACCA CATCCTCGAG CCCTCTATAC CATGGAAATC AAAACTCCTG	840

ACTCTTGTCC AGTTAACCTT ACAAAGCACT AATTATACTT GCATTGTCTG TATCGATCGT	900
GCCAGCCTAT CCACTTGGCA CGTCCTATAC TCTCCCAACG TCTCTGTTCC ATCCTCTTCT	960
TCTACCCCCC TCCTTTACCC ATCATTAGCG CTTCCAGCCC CCCACCTGAC GTTACCATTT	1020
AACTGGACCC ACTGCTTTGA CCCCCAGATT CAAGCTATAG TCTCCTCCCC CTGTCATAAC	1080
TCCCTCATCC TGCCCCCCTT TTCCTTGTCA CCTGTTCCA CCCTAGGATC CCGCTCCGC	1140
CGAGCGGTAC CGGTGGGGT CTGGCTTGTC TCCGCCCTGG CCATGGGAGC CGGAGTGGCT	1200
GGCGGGATTA CCGGCTCCAT GTCCCTCGCC TCAGGAAAGA GCCTCCTACA TGAAGTGGAC	1260
AAAGATATTT CCCAATTAAC TCAAGCAATA GTCAAAAACC ACAAAAATCT ACTCAAAATT	1320
GCGCAGTATG CTGCCCAGAA CAGACGAGGC CTTGATCTCC TGTTCTGGGA GCAACGGAGGA	1380
TTATGCAAAG CATTACAAGA ACAGTGCTGT TTTCTAAATA TTACTAATTG CCATGTCTCA	1440
ATACTACAAG AAAGACCCCCC CCTTGAGAAT CGAGTCCTGA CTGGCTGGGG CCTTAACCTGG	1500
GACCTTGGCC TCTCACAGTG GGCTCGAGAG GCCTTACAAA CTGGAATCAC CCTTGTGCG	1560
CTACTCTTC TTGTTATCCT TGCAGGACCA TGCATCCTCC GTCAGCTACG ACACCTCCCC	1620
TCGCGCGTCA AATAACCCCCA TTACTCTCTT ATAAACCCCTG AGTCATCCCT GTAATTTTA	1680
TTCTAGAATC GATCCCGGGT AGCTAGCTAA TTTTCTTTT ACGTATTATA TATGTAATAA	1740
ACGTTCACGT AAATACAAAA CAGAGAACAA AGTCTAGATT TTTGACTTAC ATAAATGTCT	1800
GGGATAGTAA AATC	1814

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:55:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 22 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:55:

TATCCTTGCA GGACCATGCA TC 22

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:56:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 20 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:56:

140

AAGCAGGAAG AGCAGGAGCG

20

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A modified recombinant virus, said modified recombinant virus having virus-encoded genetic functions inactivated therein so that the virus has attenuated virulence, yet retained efficacy; said virus further comprising exogenous DNA in a nonessential region of the virus genome, said exogenous DNA encoding at least one HTLV virus epitope.
2. The virus of claim 1 wherein said virus is a poxvirus.
3. The virus of claim 2 wherein the poxvirus is a vaccinia virus.
4. The virus of claim 3 wherein the genetic functions are inactivated by deleting at least one open reading frame.
5. The virus of claim 4 wherein the deleted genetic functions include a C7L-K1L open reading frame, or, a host range region.
6. The virus of claim 5 wherein at least one additional open reading frame is deleted; and, the additional open reading frame is selected from the group consisting of: J2R, B13R + B14R, A26L, A56R, and I4L.
7. The virus of claim 5 wherein at least one additional open reading frame is deleted; and, the additional open reading frame is selected from the group consisting of: a thymidine kinase gene, a hemorrhagic region, an A type inclusion body region, a hemagglutinin gene, and a large subunit, ribonucleotide reductase.
8. The virus of claim 6 wherein J2R, B13R + B14R, A26L, A56R, C7L - K1L and I4L are deleted from the virus.
9. The virus of claim 7 wherein a thymidine kinase gene, a hemorrhagic region, an A type inclusion body region, a hemagglutinin gene, a host range region, and a large subunit, ribonucleotide reductase are deleted from the virus.

10. The virus of claim 8 which is a NYVAC recombinant virus.

11. The virus of claim 9 which is a NYVAC recombinant virus.

5 12. The virus of claim 10 wherein the exogenous DNA codes for HTLV_{env} or HTLV₁₁₇₁.

13. The virus of claim 11 wherein the exogenous DNA codes HTLV_{env} or HTLV₁₁₇₁.

14. The virus of claim 12 is vP1181.

10 15. A modified recombinant avipox virus which is modified so that it has attenuated virulence in a host; and, which contains exogenous DNA in a nonessential region of the virus genome, said exogenous DNA encoding at least one HTLV virus epitope.

15 16. The virus of claim 15 wherein said virus is a canarypox virus.

17. The virus of claim 16 wherein the canarypox virus is a Rentschler vaccine strain which was attenuated through more than 200 serial passages on chick 20 embryo fibroblasts, a master seed therefrom was subjected to four successive plaque purifications under agar, from which a plaque clone was amplified through five additional passages.

18. The virus of claim 17 which is an ALVAC 25 recombinant virus.

19. The virus of claim 16 wherein the exogenous DNA codes for HTLV_{env} or HTLV₁₁₇₁.

20. The virus of claim 17 wherein the exogenous DNA codes for HTLV_{env} or HTLV₁₁₇₁.

30 21. The virus of claim 20 which is vCP203.

22. A method for treating a patient in need of immunological treatment or of inducing an immunological response in an individual or animal comprising administering to said patient or individual or animal a 35 composition comprising a virus as claimed in any one of claims 1, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19 or 21 in admixture with a suitable carrier.

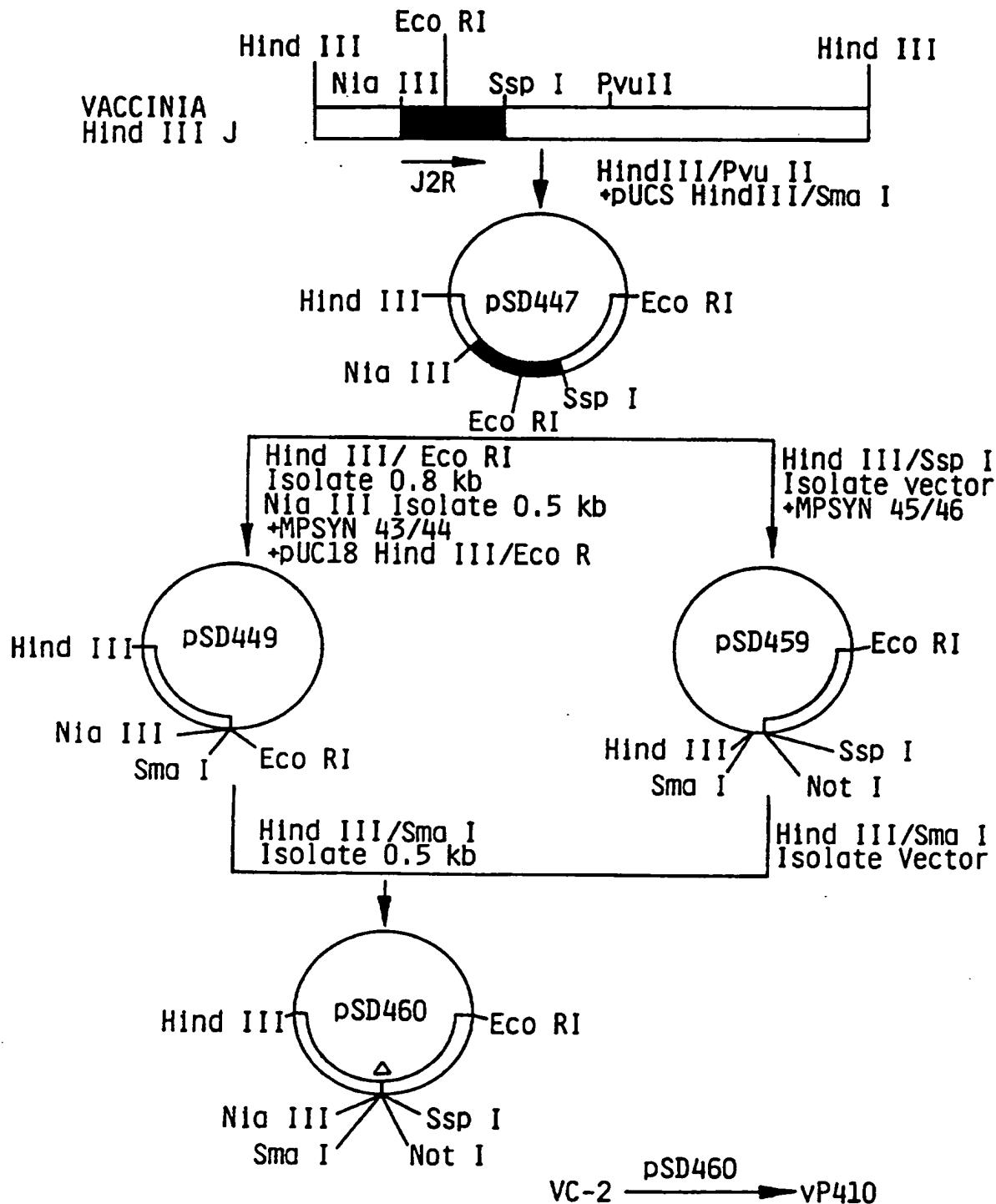
23. A composition for inducing an immunological response comprising a virus as claimed in any one of claims 1, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19 or 21 in admixture with a suitable carrier.

5 24. A method for expressing a gene product in a cell cultured *in vitro* comprising introducing into the cell a virus as claimed in any one of claims 1, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19 or 21.

10 25. An HTLV virus antigen prepared from *in vitro* expression of a virus as claimed in any one of claims 1, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19 or 21.

15 26. An antibody elicited by *in vivo* expression of an antigen from a virus as claimed in any one of claims 1, 12, 14, 15, 17, 19 or 21 or, by administration of an HTLV associated antigen from *in vitro* expression of the virus.

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**FIG. 1**

SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

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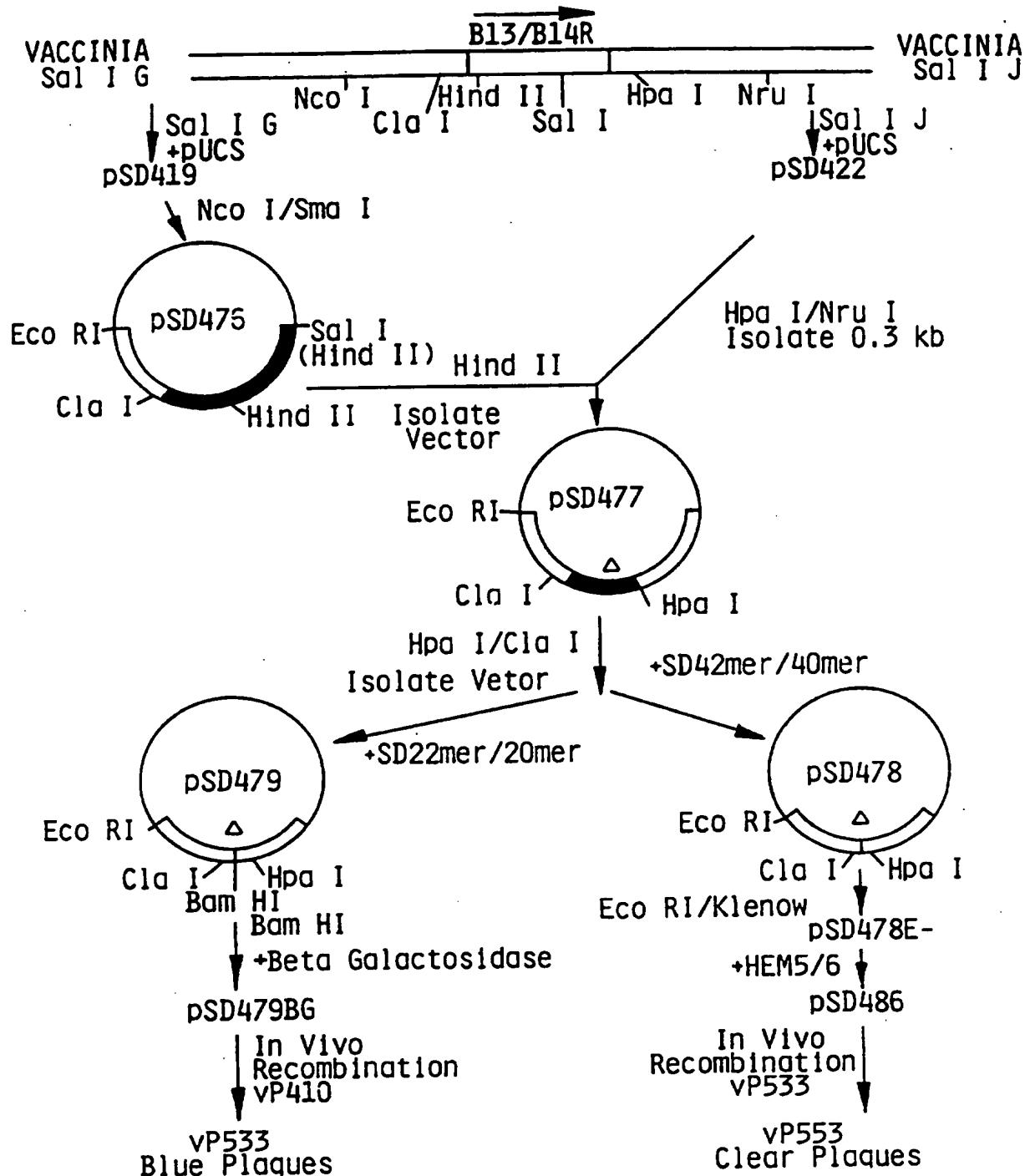


FIG. 2

SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

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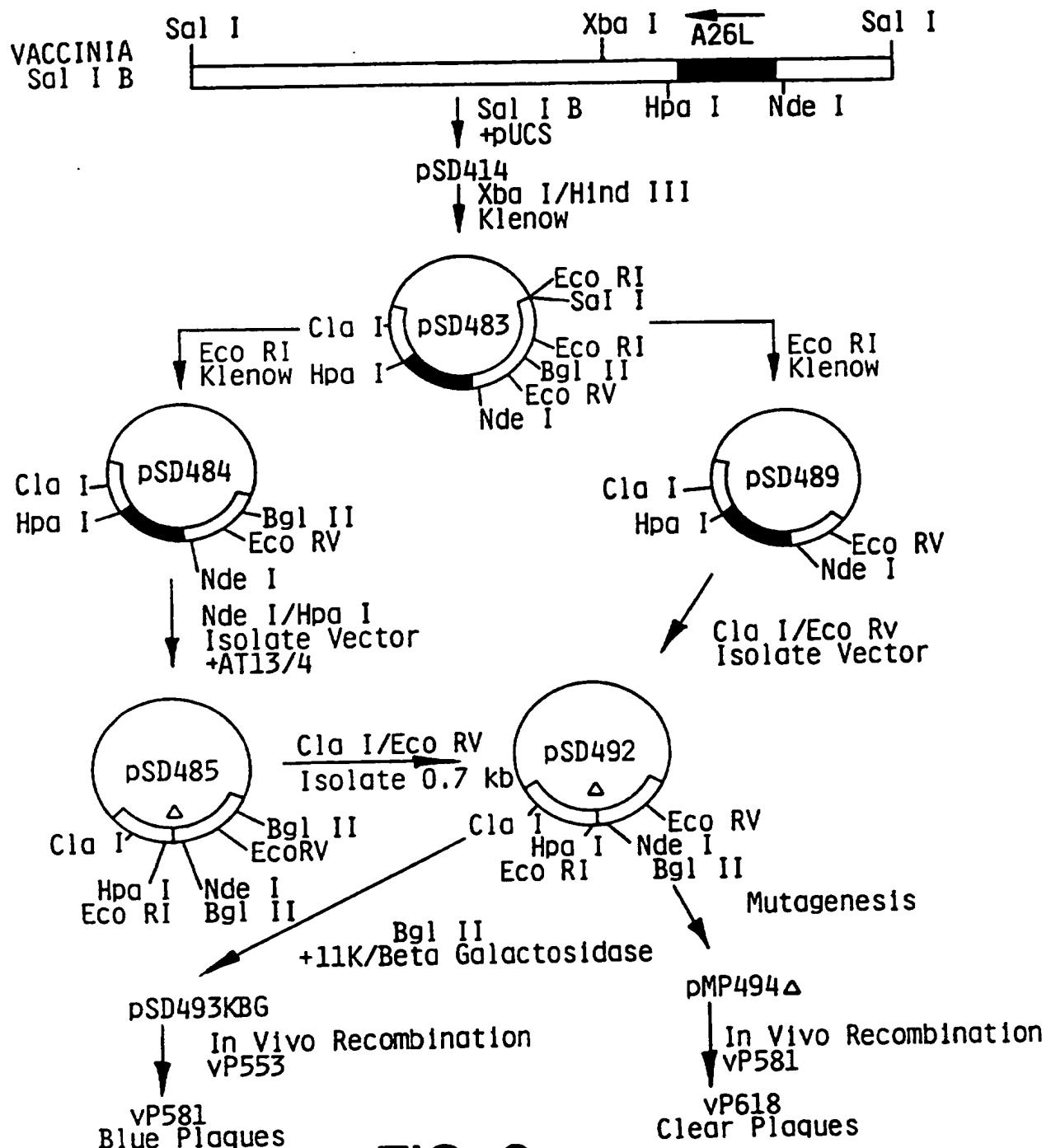
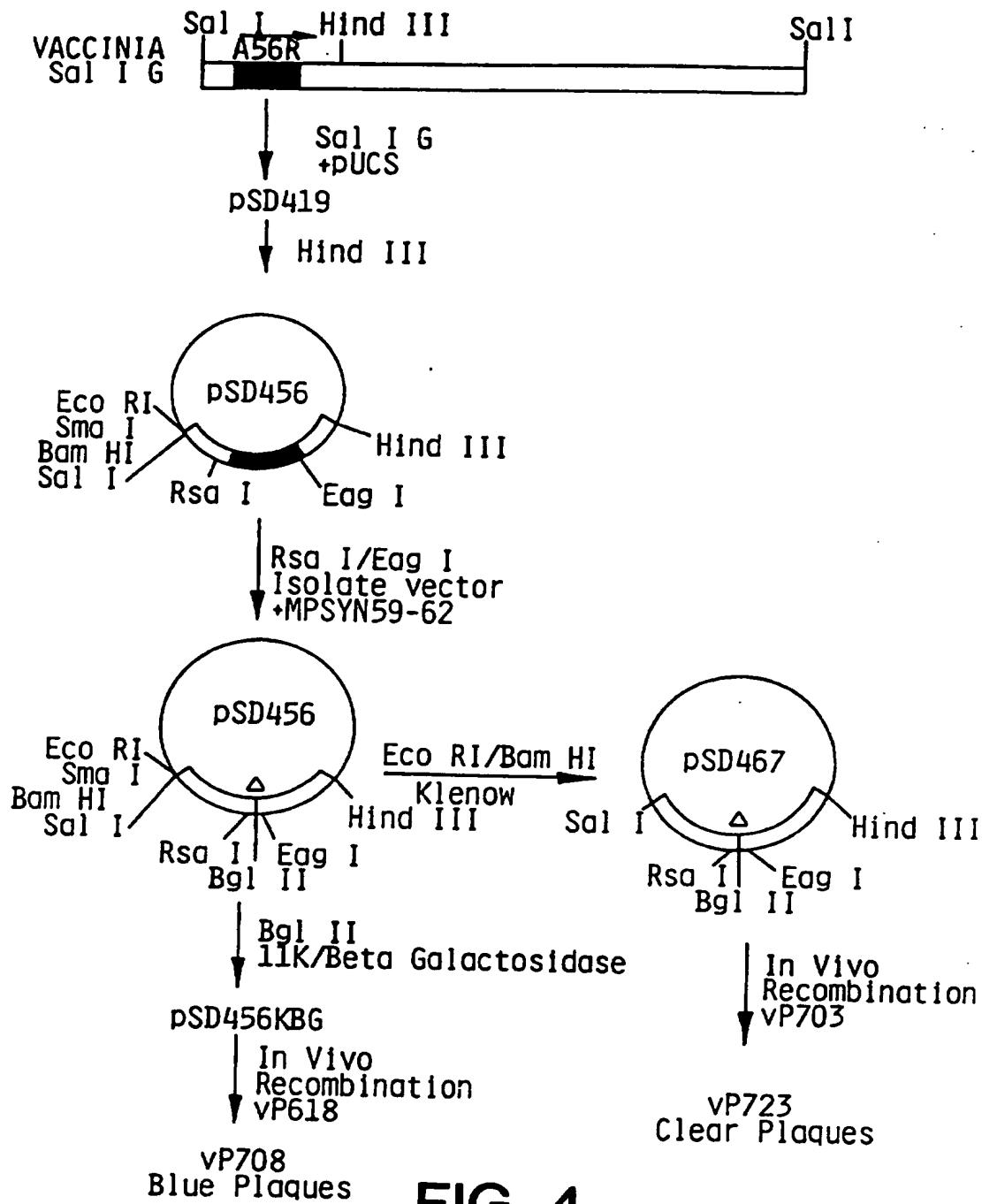


FIG. 3

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**FIG. 4**

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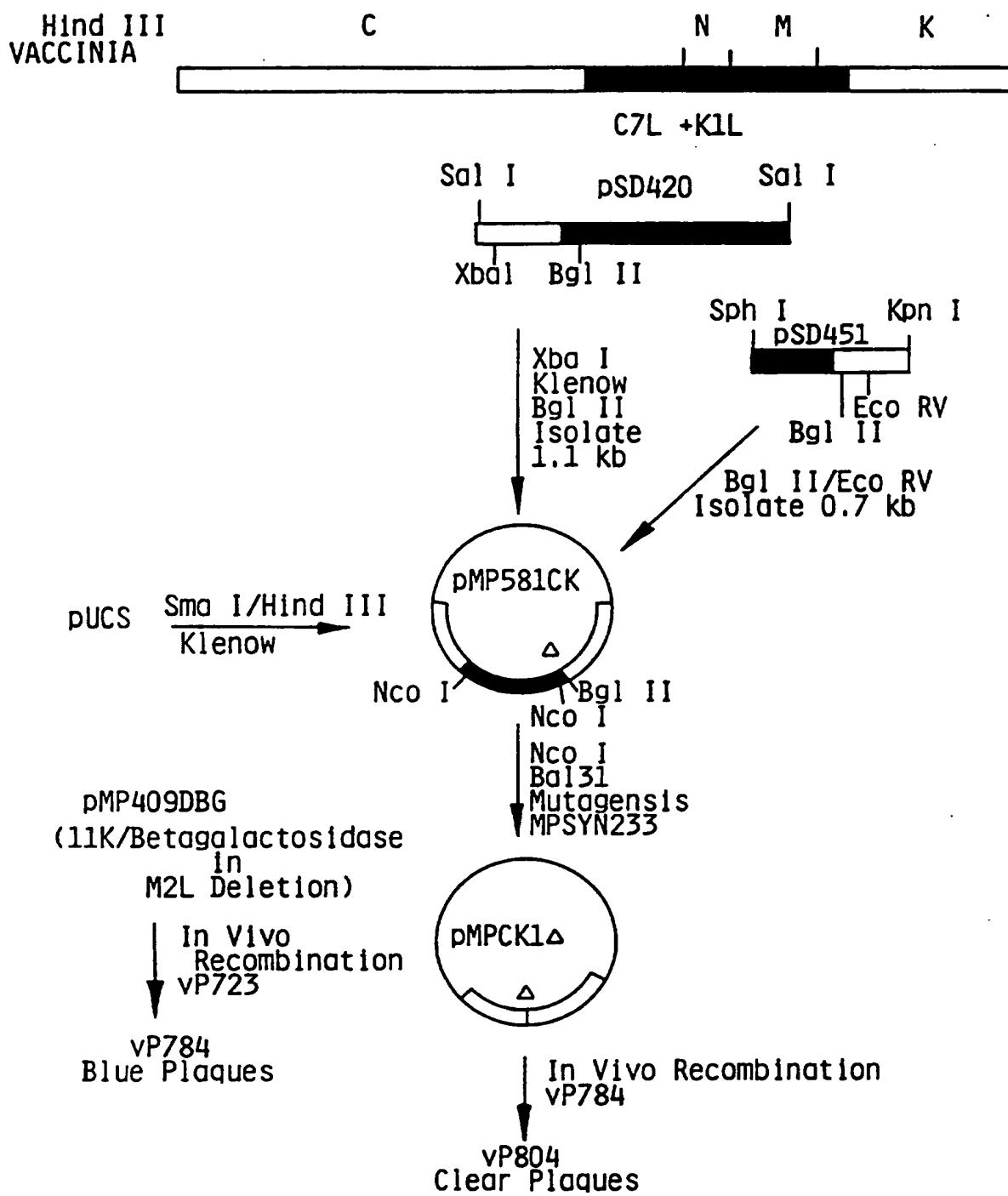
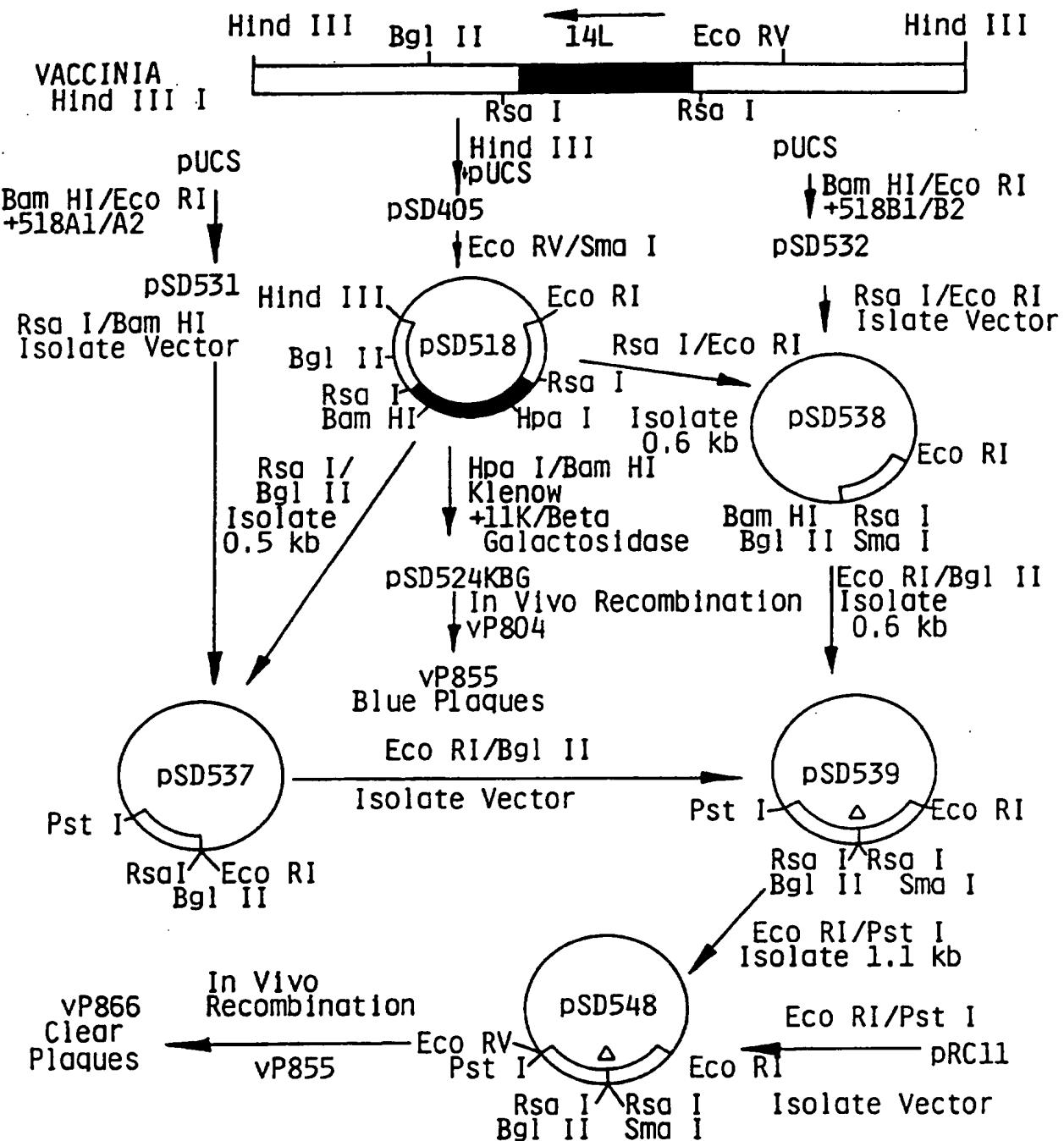
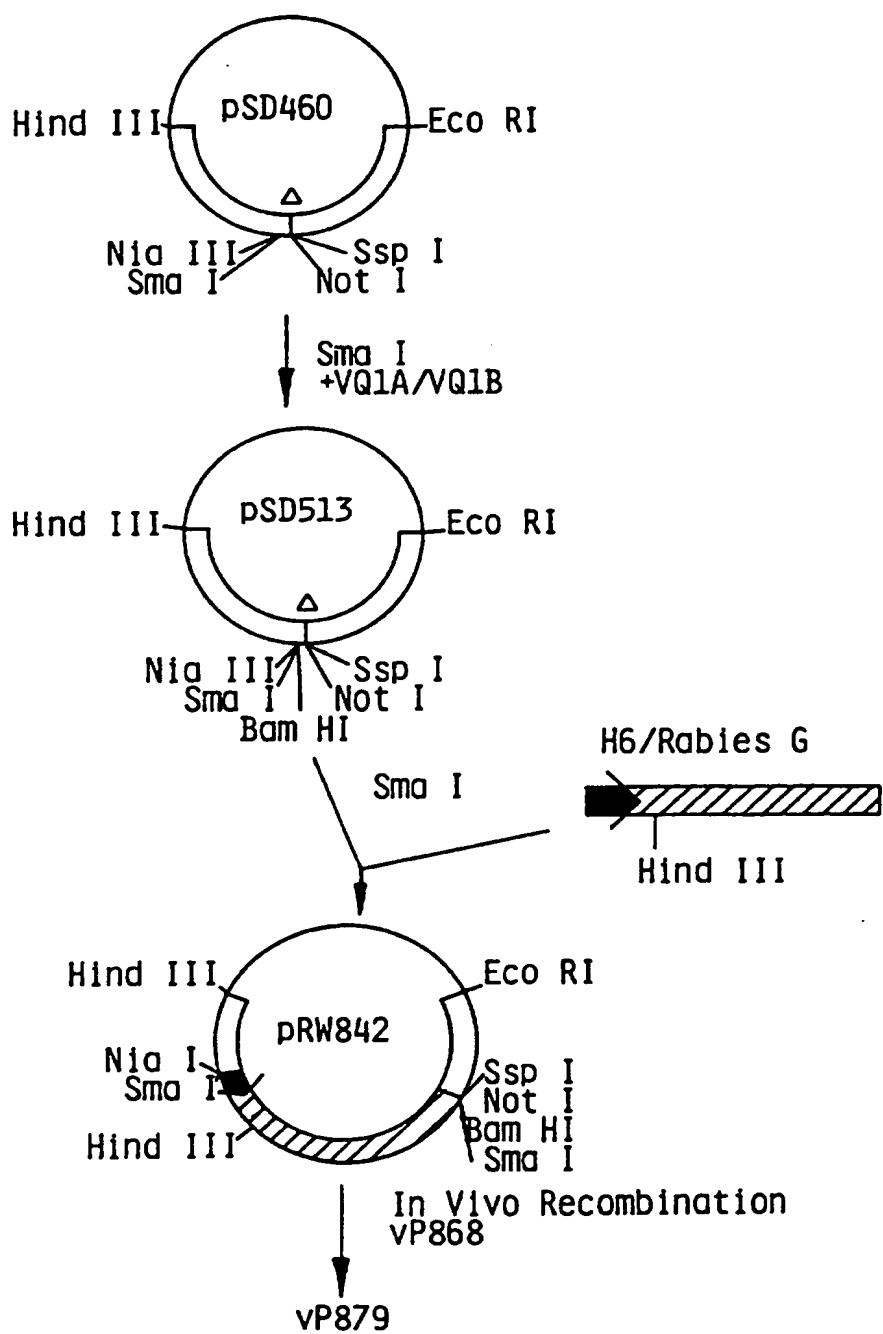


FIG. 5
SUBSTITUTE SHEET (RULE 26)

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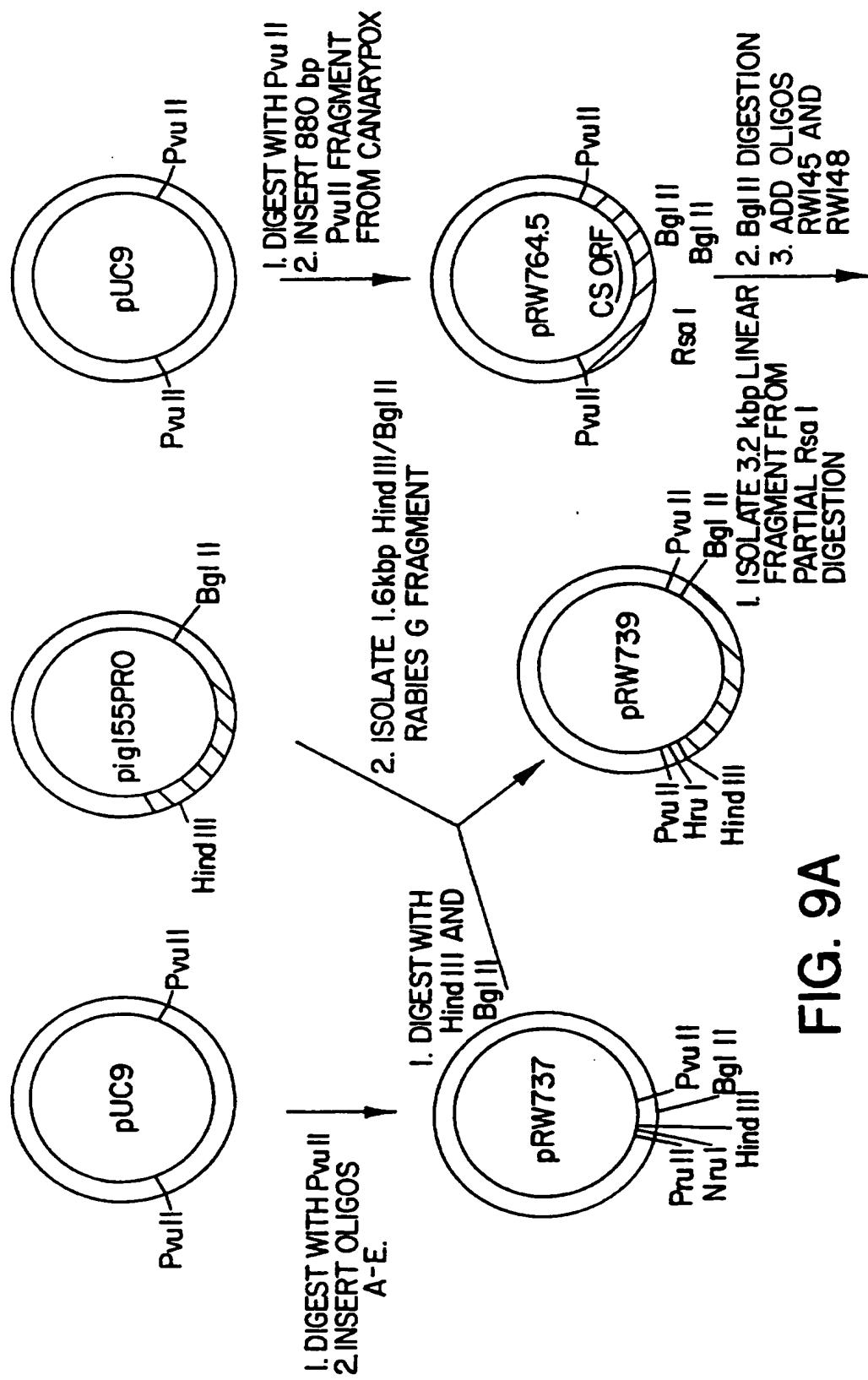
**FIG. 6**

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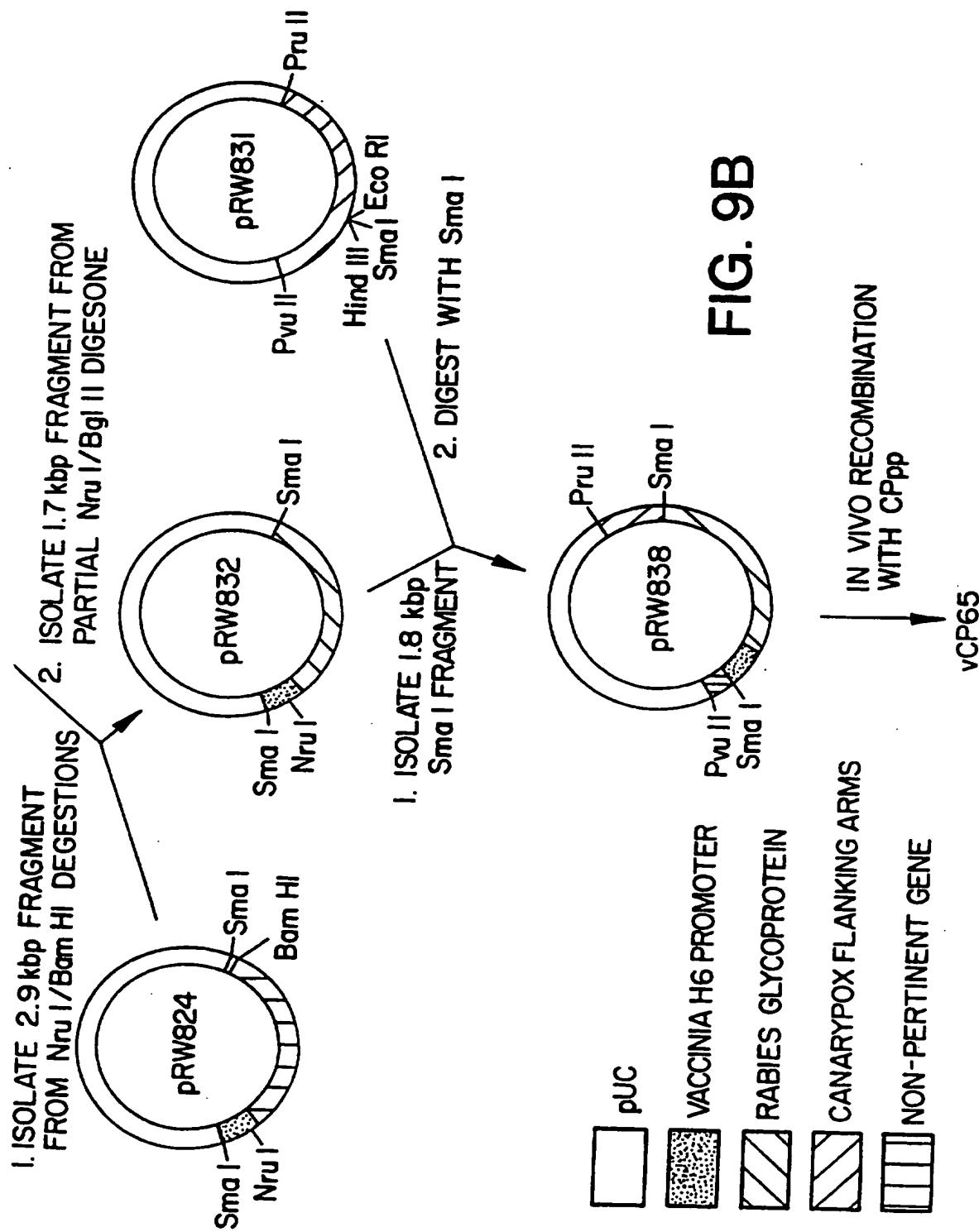
**FIG. 7**

1	TGAATGTTAA	ATGTTACT	TTGGATGAAG	CTATAAATAT	GCATTGGAAA	AATAATCCAT
61	TTAAAGAAAAG	GATTCAAATA	CTACAAAACC	TAAGCGATAA	TATGTTAACT	AAGCTTATTC
121	TTAACGACGC	TTAAATATA	CACAAATAAA	CATAATT	GTATAACCTA	ACAAATAACT
181	AAAACATAAA	AATAATAAA	GGAAATGTAA	TATCGTAATT	ATTTACTCA	GGAATGGGGT
241	TAAATATTTA	TATCACGTGT	ATATCTATAC	TGTTATCGTA	TACTCTTAC	AATTACTATT
301	ACGAATATGC	AAGAGATAAT	AAGATTACGT	ATTTAAGAGA	ATCTTGTCAT	GATAATTGGG
361	TACGACATAG	TGATAAAATGC	TATTCGCAT	CGTTACATAA	AGTCAGTTGG	AAAGATGGAT
421	TTGACAGATG	TAACCTAATA	GGTGAAAAAA	TGTTAAATAA	CAGCATTCTA	TCGGAAGATA
481	GGATACCACT	TATATTATAC	AAAAATCACT	GGTTGGATAA	AACAGATTCT	GCAATATTCG
541	TAAAAGATGA	AGATTACTGC	GAATTGTA	ACTATGACAA	TAAGGAGCCA	TTTATCTCAA
601	CGACATCGTG	TAATCTTCC	ATGTTTATG	TATGTGTTTC	AGATATTATG	AGATTACTAT
661	AAACTTTTG	TATACTTATA	TTCCGTAAC	TATATTAACT	ATGAAGAAAA	TGAAAAAGTA
721	TAGAACGCTGT	TCACGAGCGG	TTGTTGAAAA	CAACAAAATT	ATACATTCAA	GATGGCTTAC
781	ATATACGTCT	GTGAGGCTAT	CATGGATAAT	GACAATGCAT	CTCTAAATAG	GTTTTGGAC
841	AATGGATTG	ACCCCTAACAC	GGAATATGGT	ACTCTACAA	CTCCTCTTGA	AATGGCTGTA
901	ATGTTCAAGA	ATACCGAGGC	TATAAAATC	TTGATGAGGT	ATGGAGCTAA	ACCTGTAGTT
961	ACTGAATGCA	CAACCTCTT	TCTGCATGAT	GCGGTGTTGA	GAGACGACTA	CAAAATAGTG
1021	AAAGATCTGT	TGAAGAATAA	CTATGTAAC	AATGTTCTT	ACAGCGGAGG	CTTACTCCT
1081	TTGTGTTGG	CAGCTTACCT	TAACAAAGTT	AATTTGGTTA	AACCTCTATT	GGCTCATTG
1141	GCGGATGTAG	ATATTCAAA	CACGGATCGG	TTAACCTCTC	TACATATAGC	CGTATCAAAT
1201	AAAAATTAA	CAATGGTTAA	ACTTCTATTG	AACAAAGGTG	CTGATACTGA	CTTGCTGGAT
1261	AAACATGGGAC	GTACTCCTT	AATGATCGCT	GTACAATCTG	GAAATATTGA	AATATGTAGC
1321	ACACTACTTA	AAAAAAATAA	AATGTCCAGA	ACTGGGAAAA	ATTGATCTT	CCAGCTGTA
1381	TTCATGGTAG	AAAAGAAGTG	CTCAGGCTAC	TTTCAACAA	AGGAGCAGAT	GTAAACTACA
1441	TCTTGAAAG	AAATGGAAAA	TCATATACTG	TTTGGAAATT	GATTAAGAGAA	AGTTACTCTG
1501	AGACACAAAA	GAGGTAGCTG	AAGTGGTACT	CTCAAAATGC	AGAACGATGA	CTGCGAAGCA
1561	AGAAGTAGAG	AAATAACACT	TTATGACTTT	CTTAGTTGTA	GAAAAGATAG	AGATATAATG
1621	ATGGTCATAA	ATAACTCTGA	TATTGCAAGT	AAATGCAATA	ATAAGTTAGA	TTTATTTAAA
1681	AGGATAGTTA	AAAATAGAAA	AAAAGAGTTA	ATTGTTAGGG	TTAAAATAAT	ACATAAGATC
1741	TTAAAATTAA	TAATACGCA	TAATAATAAA	AATAGATTAT	ACTTATTACC	TTCAGAGATA
1801	AAATTAAAGA	TATTAACCTA	TTAACCTTAT	AAAGATCTAA	AATGCATAAT	TTCTAAATAA
1861	TGAAAAAAAGA	GTACATCATG	AGCAACGCGT	TAGTATATT	TACAATGGAG	ATTAACGCTC
1921	TATACCGTT	TATGTTTATT	GATTCAAGATG	ATGTTTAGA	AAAGAAAGTT	ATTGAATATG
1981	AAAACTTAA	TGAAGATGAA	GATGACGACG	ATGATTATTG	TTGTAATCT	GTTTTAGATG
2041	AAGAAGATGA	CGCGCTAAAG	TATACATATGG	TTACAAAGTA	TAAGTCTATA	CTACTAATGG
2101	CGACTTGTGC	AAGAAGGTAT	AGTATAGTGA	AAATGTTTT	AGATTATGAT	TATGAAAAAC
2161	CAAATAAAATC	AGATCCATAT	CTAAAGGTAT	CTCCTTGC	CATAATTCA	TCTATTCTA
2221	GTTTAGAATA	CTTTCTTAA	TATTTGTTA	CAGCTGAAGA	CGAAAAAAAT	ATATCGATAA
2281	TAGAAGATTA	TGTTAACTCT	GCTAATAAGA	TGAAATTGAA	TGAGTCTGTG	ATAATAGCTA
2341	TAATCAGAGA	AGTTCTAAA	GGAAATAAAA	ATCTAACTGA	TCAGGATATA	AAAACATTGG
2401	CTGATGAAAT	CAACAAGGAG	GAACGTGATA	TAGCTAAACT	ATTGTTAGAT	AGAGGGGCCA
2461	AAGTAAATT	CAAGGATGTT	TACGGTTCTT	CAGCTCTCA	TAGAGCTGCT	ATTGGTAGGA
2521	AACAGGATAT	GATAAAAGCTG	TTAATCGATC	ATGGAGCTGA	TGTAACCTCT	TTAACATTG
2581	CTAAAGATAA	TCTTATTTAA	AAAAAATAAT	ATCACGTTA	GTAATATTAA	AATATATTAA
2641	TAACCTCTATT	ACTAATAACT	CCAGTGGATA	TGAACATAAT	ACGAAGTTA	TACATTCTCA
2701	TCAAAATCTT	ATTGACATCA	AGTTAGATTG	TGAAAATGAG	ATTATGAAAT	TAAGGAATAAC
2761	AAAAATAGGA	TGTAAGAACT	TACTAGAATG	TTTATCAAT	AATGATATGA	ATACAGTATC
2821	TAGGGCTATA	AAACATGAAA	CGATTA	TTATAAAAT	CATTCCCTA	TATATAATAAC
2881	GCTCATAGAA	AAATTCAATT	CTGAAAGTAT	ACTAAGACAC	GAATTATTGG	ATGGAGTTAT
2941	AAATTCTTTT	CAAGGATTCA	ATAATAAAAT	GCCTTACGAG	ATTCACTACA	TTATACGTGGA
3001	GAATCTTAAT	AACCATGAAC	TAAAAAAAT	TTAGATAAT	ATACATTAA	AAGGTAATAA
3061	GATCATCTGT	TATTATAAGC	AAAGATGCTT	GTTGCCAATA	ATATACAACA	GGTATTGTT
3121	TTTATTTTTA	ACTACATATT	TGATGTTCAT	TCTCTTATA	TAGTATACAC	AGAAAATTCA
3181	TAATCCACTT	AGAATTCTA	GTTATCTAG			

FIG. 8

**FIG. 9A**

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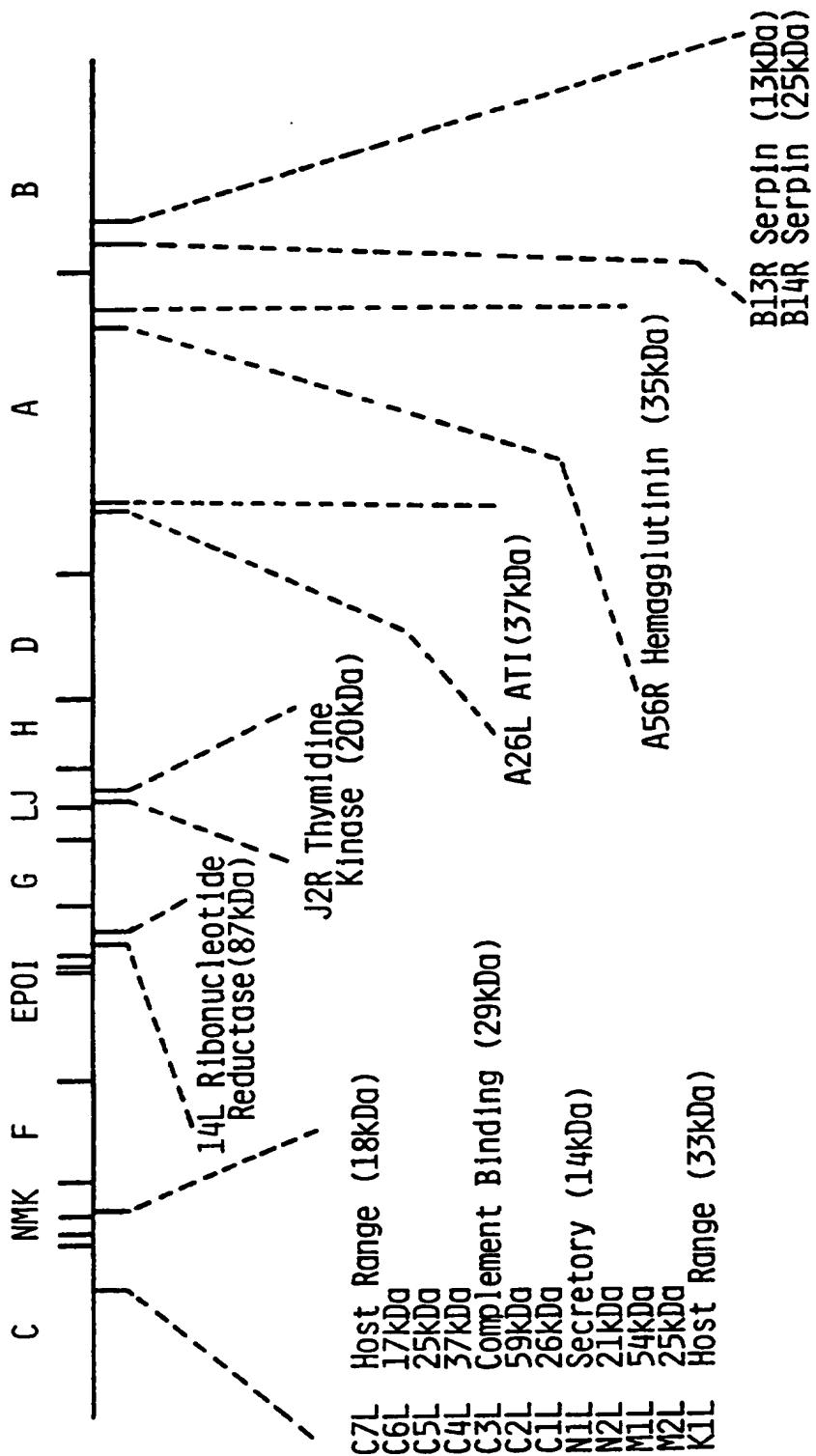


FIG. 10

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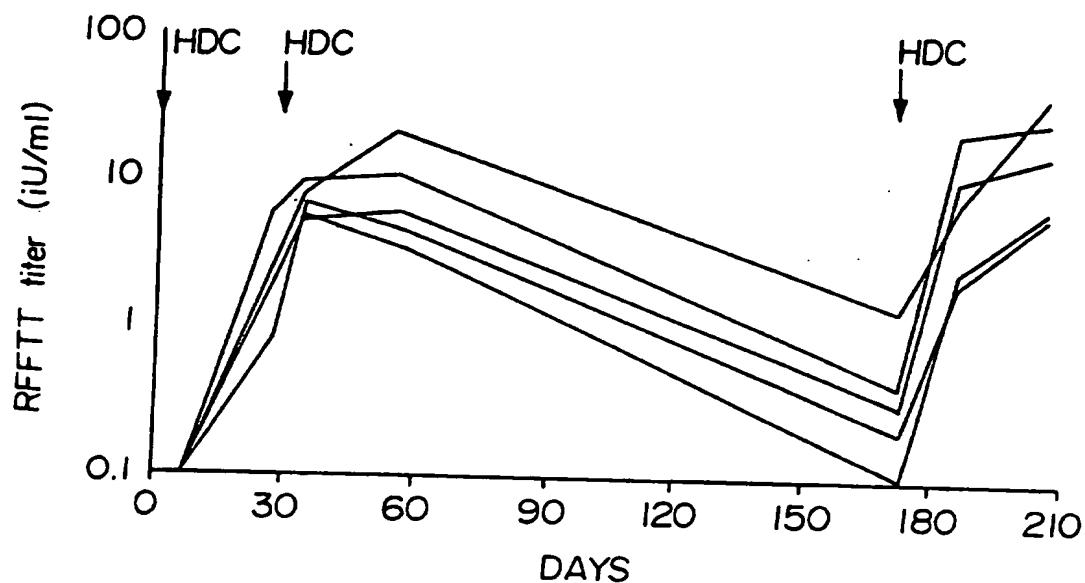


FIG. 11A

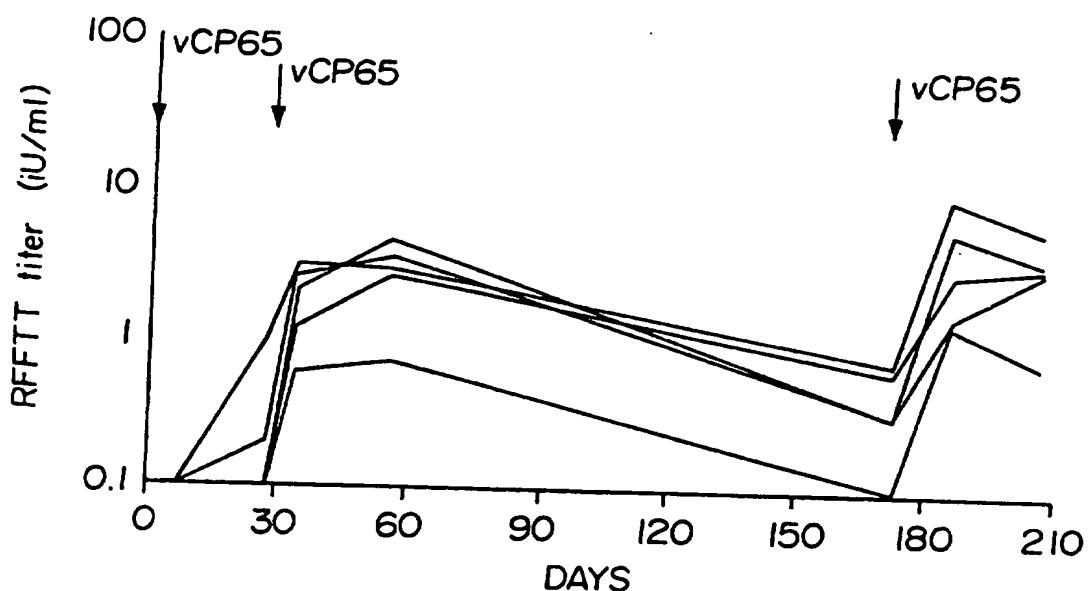


FIG. 11C

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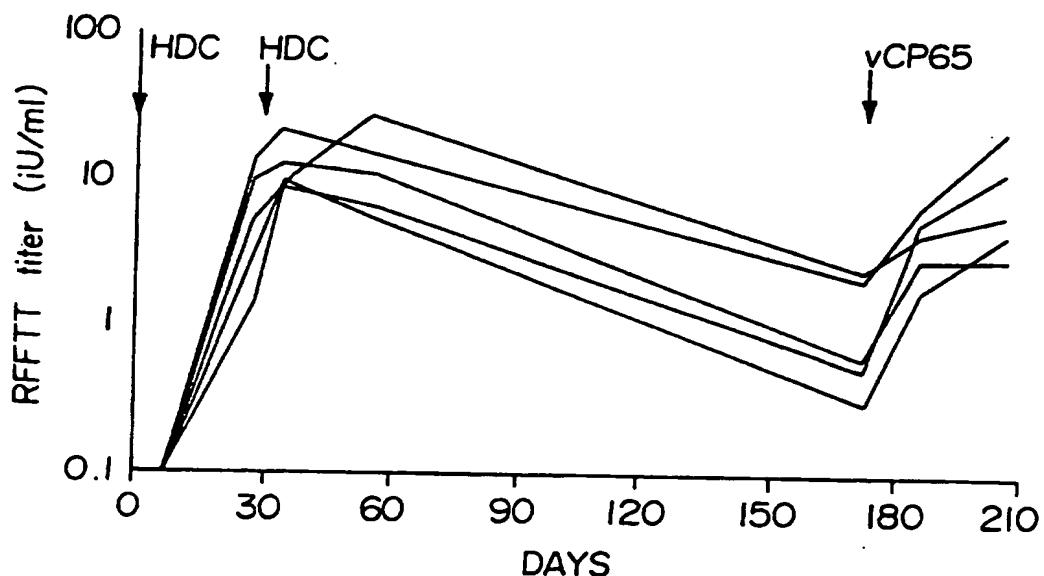


FIG. 11B

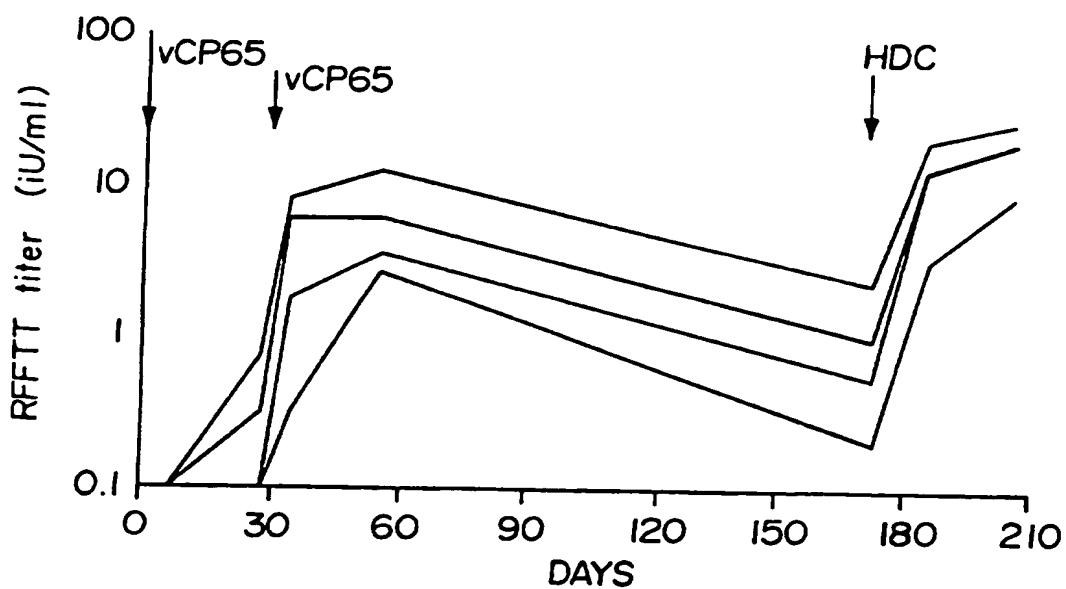


FIG. 11D

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1 AAAGTTACTC TGAGACACAA AAGAGGTAGC TGAAGTGGTA CTCTCAAAGG TACGTGACTA
 61 ATTAGCTATA AAAAGGATCC GGGTTAATT ATTAGTCATC AGGCAGGGCG AGAACGAGAC
 121 TATCTGCTCG TTAATTAAATT AGGTGACGG ATCCGGTACC ACATCATGCA GTGGTTAAAT
 181 AAAAACATT TTATTCTCAA ATGAGATAAA GTGAAAATAT ATATCATTAT ATTACAAAGT
 241 ACAATTATTT AGGTTAACG ATGGGTAAGT TTCTCGCCAC TTTGATTTA TTCCCTCAGT
 301 TCTGCCCTCATCCTCGGT GATTACAGCC CCAGCTGCTG TACTCTCACAA ATTGGAGTCT
 361 CCTCATACCA CTCTAAACCC TGCAATCCTG CCCAGCCAGT TTGCTCATGG ACCCTCGACC
 421 TGCTGGCCCT TTCACTGAGT CAGGCCCTAC AGCCCCCTG CCCTAATCTG GTAAGTTACT
 481 CCAGCTACCA TGCCACCTAT TCCCCTATATC TATTCCCTCA TTGGATTAAA AAGCCAAACC
 541 GAAATGGCGG AGGCTATTAT TCAGCTCTT ATTCAAGACCC TTATTCCCTTA AAGTGCCCAT
 601 ACCTAGGGTG CCAATCATGG ACCTGCCCT ATACAGGAGC CGTCTCCAGC CCCTACTGGA
 661 ATTTCAAGCA AGATGTCAAT TTTACTCAAG AAGTTTCACG CCTCAATATT AATCTCCATT
 721 TTTCAAAATG CGGTTTTTCC TTCTCCCTTC TAGTCGACGC TCCAGGATAT GACCCCATCT
 781 GGTTCTTAA TACCGAACCC AGCCAACCTGC CTCCCACCCGC CCCTCCTCTA CTCTCCACT
 841 CTAACCTAGA CCACATCCTC GAGCCCTCTA TACCATGAA ATCAAAACTC CTGACTCTTG
 901 TCCAGTTAAC CTTACAAAGC ACTAATTATA CTTGCATTGT CTGTATCGAT CGTGCCAGCC
 961 TATCCACTTG GCACGTCCTA TACTCTCCA ACGTCTCTGT TCCATCCTCT TCTTCTACCC
 1021 CCCTCCTTTA CCCATCATTG GCGCTTCCAG CCCCCCACCT GACGTTACCA TTTAACTGGA
 1081 CCCACTGCTT TGACCCCCCAG ATTCAAGCTA TAGTCTCTC CCCCTGTCA AACTCCCTCA
 1141 TCCTGCCCCC CTTTCTTGT TCACCTGTT TCACCTGTTCC CACCCCTAGG ATCCCGCTCC CGCCGAGCGG
 1201 TACCGGTGGC GGTCTGGCTT GTCTCGCCCG TGGCCATGGG AGCCGGAGTG GCTGGGGGA
 1261 TTACCGGCTC CATGCTCCCTC GCCTCAGGAA AGAGCCTCT ACATGAAGTG GACAAGATA
 1321 TTTCCAATT AACTCAAGCA ATAGTCAAAA ACCACAAAAA TCTACTCAAA ATTGGCAGT
 1381 ATGCTGCCA GAACAGACGA GGCCTTGATC TCCCTGTTCTG GGAGCAAGGA GGATTATGCA
 1414 AAGCATTACA AGAACAGCTGC TGTTTCTAA ATATTACTAA TTCCCATGTC TCAATACTAC
 1501 AAGAAAGACC CCCCTTGAG AATCGAGTCC TGACTGGCTG GGGCTTAAAC TGGGACCTTG
 1561 GCCTCTCACCA GTGGGCTCGA GAGGCCTTAC AAACTGGAAT CACCTTGTC GCGCTACTCT
 1621 TTCTTGTTAT CCTTGCAAGGA CCATGCATCC TCCGTCAAGT ACGACACCTC CCCTCGCGCG
 1681 TCAAATACCC CCATTACTCT CTTATAAAACC CTGAGTCATC CCTGTAATT TTATTCTAGA
 1741 ATCGATCCCG GGTTTTATG ACTAGTTAAT CACGGCCGCT TATAAAGATC TAAAATGCA
 1801 AATTCTAAA TAATGAAAAA AAAGTACATC ATGAGCAACG CGTTAGTATA TTTTACAATG
 1861 GAGATTAACG CTCTATACCG TTCTATGTTT AT

1-160 C5 flanking region
 161-260 I3L promoter
 261-1727 HTLV-I env
 1728-1892 C5 flanking region

FIG. 12

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1	TCTAAAGTAT	TTGGAAAGTT	TTATAGGTAG	TTGATAGAAC	AAAATACATA	ATTTGTAAA
61	AATAAATCAC	TTTTTATACT	AATATTAAAT	TAATTAAGCT	TGGTACCAACA	TCATGCAGTG
121	GTTAAATAAA	AACATTTTA	TTCTCAAATG	AGATAAAGTG	AAAATATATA	TCATTATATT
181	ACAAAGTACA	ATTATTTAGG	TTAATCATG	GGTAAGTTTC	TCGCCACTTT	GATTTTATTTC
241	CTCCAGTTCT	GCCCCCTCAT	CCTCGGTGAT	TACAGCCCCA	GCTGCTGTAC	TCTCACAATT
301	GGAGTCTCCT	CATACCACCTC	TAACCCCTGC	AATCCTGCC	AGCCAGTTTG	CTCATGGACC
361	CTCGACCTGC	TGGCCCTTTC	AGTAGATCAG	GCCCCTACAGC	CCCCCTGCC	TAATCTGGTA
421	AGTTACTCCA	GCTACCATGC	CACCTATTCC	CTATATCTAT	TCCCTCATTG	GATTAAAAAG
481	CCAAACCGAA	ATGGCGGAGG	CTATTATTCA	GCCTCTTATT	CAGACCTTA	TTCCTTAAG
541	TGCCCATACC	TAGGGTGCCA	ATCATGGACC	TGCCCCCTATA	CAGGAGCCGT	CTCCAGCCCC
601	TACTGGAAAT	TTCAAGCAAGA	TGTCAATTTC	ACTCAAGAACG	TTTCACGCCT	CAATATTAAAT
661	CTCCATTTTT	CAAAATGCGG	TTTTTCTCTTC	TCCCTCTAG	TCGACGCTCC	AGGATATGAC
721	CCCATCTGGT	TCCTTAATAC	CGAACCCAGC	CAACTGCCTC	CCACCGCCCC	TCCTCTACTC
781	TCCCACTCTA	ACCTAGACCA	CATCTCGAG	CCCTCTATAC	CATGGAAATC	AAAACCTCTG
841	ACTCTTGTCC	AGTTAACCTT	ACAAAGCACT	AATTATACTT	GCATTGTCTG	TATCGATCGT
901	GCCAGCCTAT	CCACTTGGCA	CGTCCTATAC	TCTCCCAACG	TCTCTGTTCC	ATCCTCTTCT
961	TCTACCCCCC	TCCTTTACCC	ATCATTAGCG	CTTCCAGCCC	CCCACCTGAC	GTTACCATT
1021	AACTGGACCC	ACTGCTTTGA	CCCCCAGATT	CAAGCTATAG	TCTCCTCCCC	CTGTCATAAC
1081	TCCCTCATCC	TGCCCTCCCT	TTCCCTGTCA	CCTGTTCCCA	CCCTAGGATC	CCGCTCCC
1141	CGAGCGGTAC	CGGTGGCGGT	CTGGCTTGTC	TCCGCCCTGG	CCATGGGAGC	CGGAGTGGCT
1201	GGCGGGATTA	CCGGCTCCAT	GTCCCTCGCC	TCAGGAAAGA	GCCTCCTACA	TGAAGTGGAC
1261	AAAGATATT	CCCAATTAAAC	TCAAGCAATA	GTCAAAAACC	ACAAAAAATCT	ACTCAAAATT
1321	GCGCAGTATG	CTGCCAGAA	CAGACGAGGC	CTTGATCTCC	TGTTCTGGGA	GCAAGGAGGA
1381	TTATGCAAAG	CATTACAAGA	ACAGTGTGT	TTTCTAAATA	TTACTAATT	CCATGTCTCA
1441	ATACTACAAG	AAAGACCCCC	CCTTGAGCCT	CGAGTCCTGA	CTGGCTGGGG	CCTTAACTGG
1501	GACCTTGGCC	TCTCACAGTG	GGCTCGAGAG	GCCTTACAAA	CTGGAATCAC	CCTTGTCGCG
1561	CTACTCTTC	TTGTATTCT	TGCAGGACCA	TGCATCCTCC	GTCAGCTACG	ACACCTCCCC
1621	TCGCGCGTCA	AATACCCCCA	TTACTCTCTT	ATAAACCTG	AGTCATCCCT	GTAATT
1681	TTCTAGAATC	GATCCCGGGT	AGCTAGCTAA	TTTTTCTTTT	ACGTATTATA	TATGTAATAA
1741	ACGTTCACGT	AAATACAAAAA	CAGAGAACAA	AGTCTAGATT	TTTGACTTAC	ATAAAATGTCT
1801	GGGATAGTAA	AATC				

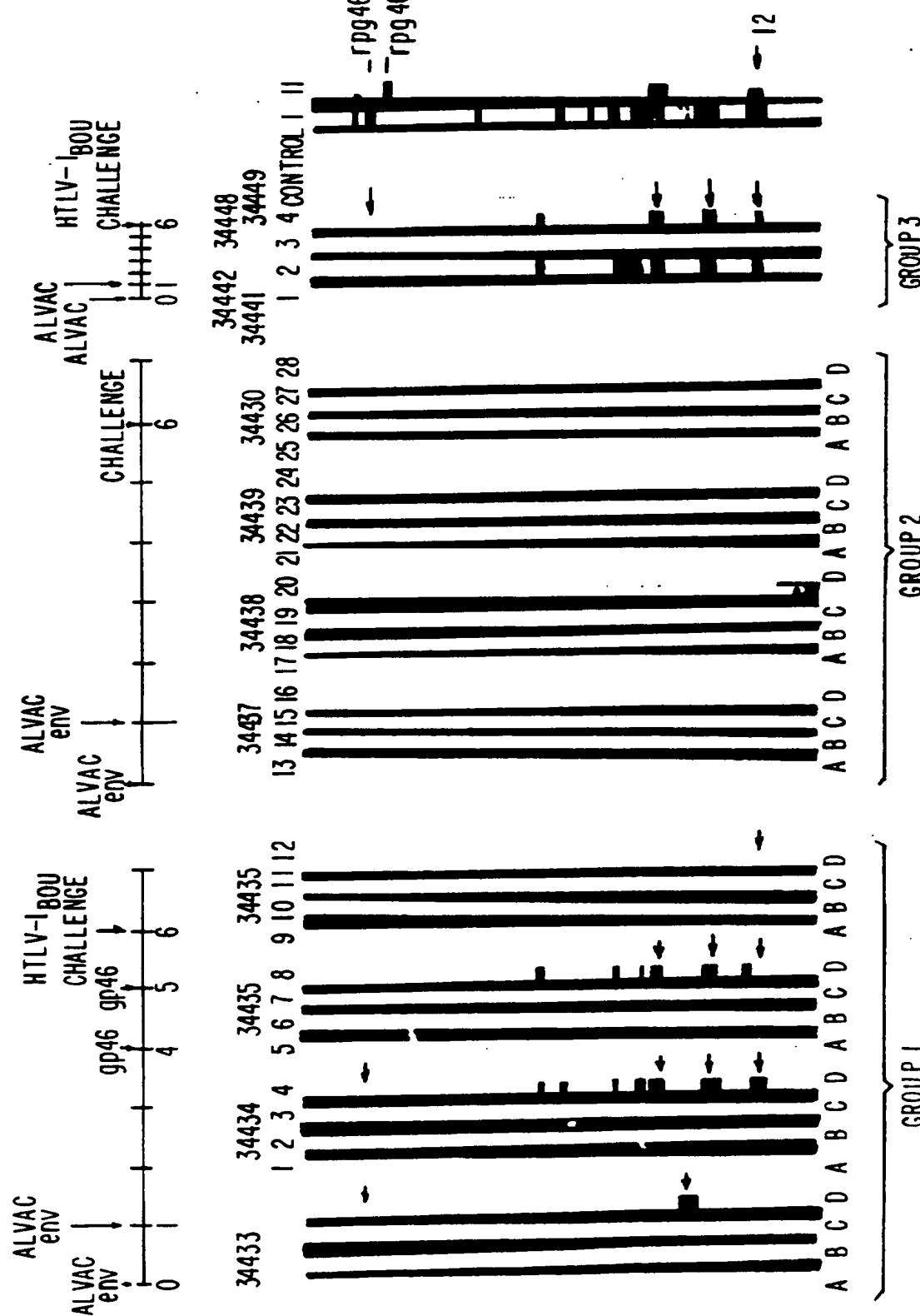
1-107 HA flanking region
 108-207 I3L promoter
 208-1674 HTLV-I env
 1675-1814 HA flanking region

FIG. 13

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FIG. 14

CONTROLS

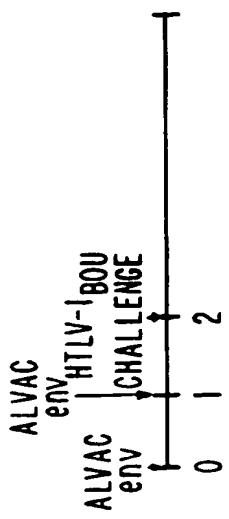


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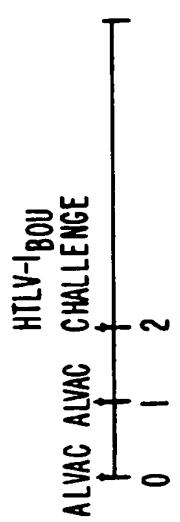
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FIG. 15

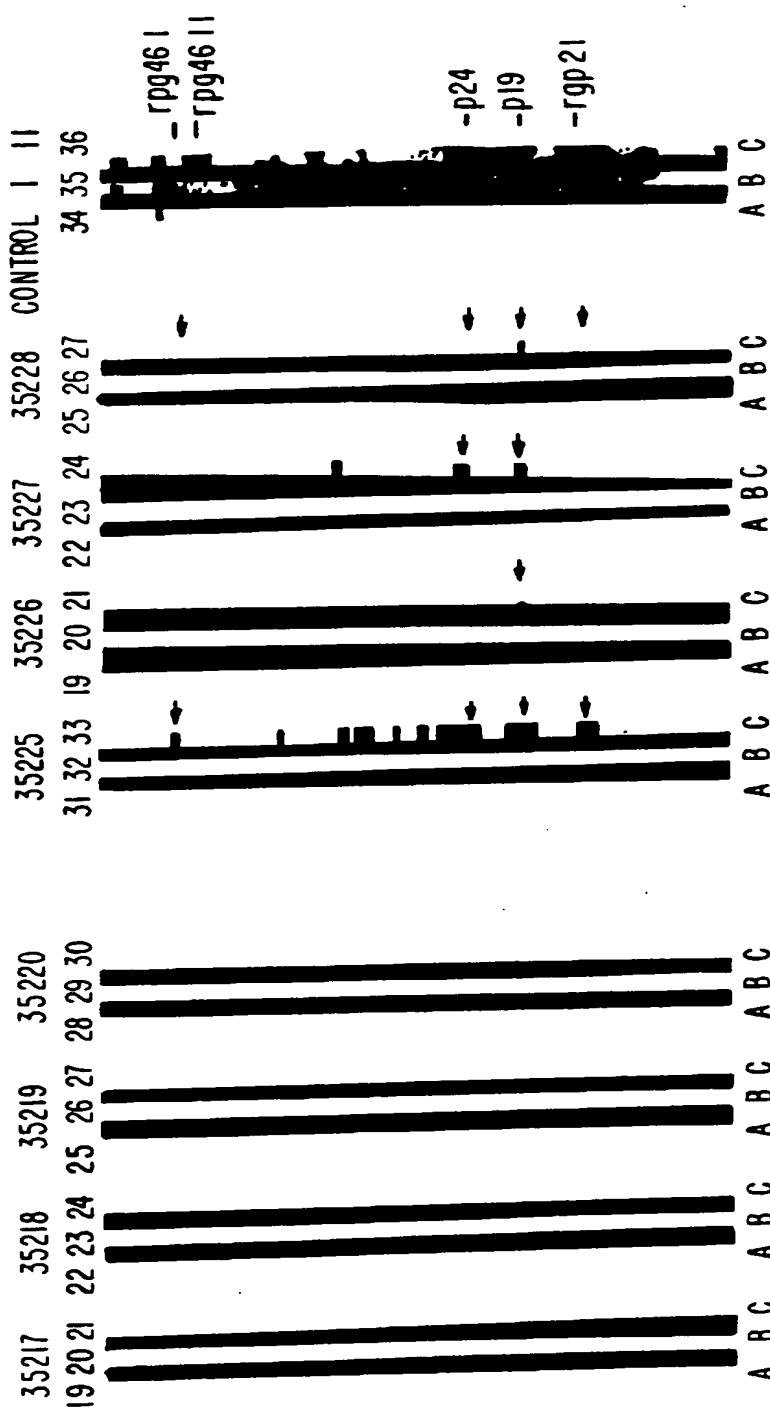
VACCINEE



CONTROLS



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